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PM calls for transparent, impartial AI

Stresses data security, democratisation of tech

Pawar accorded state funeral

Lakhs bid farewell to Maharashtra DyCM

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TN, Karnataka lead list of Dalit, tribal & OBC judges in lower courts

Statistics show diversity generally higher in South Indian states

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

District and subordinate courts in the country have 14.15% Dalits, 5.12% tribals, and 26.64% OBCs as judges, with statistics showing that diversity among them is higher in South India: Tamil Nadu and Karnataka lead the pack.

Statistics provided by Union Law Minister Arjun Meghwal in a written reply to RJD MP Manoj K Jha showed that the lower judiciary was more representative than the high courts, with appointments since 2018 showing that only 3.89% of 847 judges were Dalits, 2% were tribals, and 12.27% were OBCs.

States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have impressive representation in lower courts. However, the statistics showed "zero" SC, ST, and OBC judges in lower courts in West Bengal and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

According to the statistics, 45.76% or 9,534 of 20,833 civil judges (junior division), civil judge (senior division), and district judges were from SC, ST and OBC communities as on January 21. Of them, 14.15% (2,949) were SCs, 5.12% (1,068) STs, and 26.64% (5,517) were OBCs.

Among the big states, Tamil Nadu had 97.65% (1,205 of 1,234) from these categories—SC 20.66% (255), ST 1.21% (15), and OBC 75.76% (935).

District judges & their representation

STATE	SC%	ST%	OBC%
Tamil Nadu	20.66	1.21	75.76
Karnataka	20.01	4.16	64.92
Kerala	7.45	0.69	50.60
Andhra Pradesh	18.88	5.59	38.98
Telangana	15.28	8.98	44.71
Uttar Pradesh	20.22	1.43	31.89
Bihar	15.19	0.84	28.76
Maharashtra	11.70	0.36	25.77
Madhya Pradesh	16.04	14.15	18.79
INDIA	**14.15**	**5.12**	**26.64**

They accounted for 88.82% (996) of 1,129 district and subordinate court judges in Karnataka. Dalit judges numbered 226 (20.01%), and 47 (4.16%) were tribals, while OBCs accounted for 733 (64.92%).

Other South Indian states, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Kerala, also fared well in representation in the lower judiciary.

Kerala had 50.60% OBC judges, while Dalits accounted for 7.45%, and tribals 0.69%. Andhra's count was 38.98%, 18.88%, and 5.59% and Telangana 44.71%, 15.28%, and 8.98%, respectively.

Overall, 53.56% (1,414 of 2,640) judges in UP's district and subordinate courts belonged to the three communities. Dalits accounted for 20.22% (534), tribals 1.43% (38), and OBCs 31.89% (842).

Bihar had 253 or 20.01% Dalit judges in district and subordinate courts, while the figures for tribals were 0.84% (14) and 28.76% (479) for OBCs.

While only those persons recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium are appointed as judges of the apex court and the HCs, state governments, in consultation with the respective HCs, frame the rules regarding the appointment of judicial officers in the respective state judicial services.

SC reserves judgment in stray dogs case

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its verdict on a batch of petitions seeking modification of earlier orders in the stray dogs case.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and NV Anjaria wrapped up the proceedings after hearing amicus curiae senior advocate Gaurav Agarwal, who summarised the steps taken by states like Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan in the matter.

The bench also heard the counsel appearing for the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) regarding compliance with the November 7, 2025, order directing the authority to remove stray animals from national highways and fencing of roads.

The court asked the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) to process the applications of NGOs seeking permission to animal shelters or animal birth control facilities. AWBI pointed out that after the November 7 order of the apex court, there was a surge in such applications from different organisations.

"Either you accept it or reject the applications. But do it expeditiously," the bench told the counsel for AWBI.

The court also asked the parties to file their written submissions as early as possible in the matter.

PM Modi bats for transparent, impartial AI ecosystem

NEW DELHI, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India has a unique proposition of scale, diversity and democracy, due to which the world trusts India's digital infrastructure.

PM Modi also emphasised the importance of data security and democratisation of technology and said all should work towards an Artificial Intelligence (AI) ecosystem which is transparent, impartial and secure.

Interacting with CEOs and experts working in the field of AI at his residence at Lok Kalyan Marg here, he emphasised the need to embrace new technology in all spheres and use it to contribute to national growth and urged the use of indigenous technology across key sectors. "The PM highlighted that India has a unique proposition of scale, diversity and democracy, due to which the world trusts India's digital infrastructure," according to a statement issued by the PMO.

In line with his vision of 'AI for All', he said, everyone needs to create an impact with the technology as well as inspire the world. He urged the CEOs and experts to make India a fertile destination for all global AI efforts.

Aligned with the upcoming IndiaAI Impact Summit to be held in February, the interaction aimed to foster strategic collaborations, showcase AI innovations and accelerate India's AI mission goals.

Delhi saw over 50% rise in heart-related deaths in 2024

NEW DELHI, PTI: Delhi reported 34,539 deaths due to heart attack and heart-related diseases in 2024, over 12,000 more fatalities compared to the previous year, when 22,385 deaths were reported, according to the Delhi government data. It also revealed that in the past two decades, 3,29,857 deaths in Delhi were due to heart attacks.

According to the latest Delhi government report, 46,129 deaths were recorded in the age group of 25 to 44 years, while 1,03,972 people died due to heart attacks in the age group of 45 to 64 years and 92,048 in the age group of 65 years and above. More than 5% (14,321) of the total deaths recorded were of those 14 years and below.

"While hereditary risk remains important, lifestyle factors now play a larger and more modifiable role in early heart attacks," Dr Madhurima Ghosh, pediatric cardiologist at BM Birla Heart Hospital, said.

Time for courageous calls: PM on India-EU pact

Says FTA is for ambitious, self-reliant India & youth

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Insisting that it was not the time to "sit and lament" about "obstructions" but to take "courageous, solution-oriented decisions", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India had become a "ray of hope" and "centre of attraction" for the world, as he referred to the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the European Union (EU).

PM Narendra Modi addresses the media during the Budget session of Parliament on Thursday. PTI

He said 2026 had begun on a "positive note", with the FTA reflecting "how bright the coming directions are and how promising the future of India's youth is", as he asked Indian industrialists and manufacturers not to think merely that a big market had opened and goods can now be sent cheaply.

At the beginning of the Budget session of Parliament, Modi told reporters that India was moving rapidly on reform, and that even his critics acknowledged the government's focus on last-mile delivery.

Attacking Modi, Congress Rajya Sabha chief whip Jairam Ramesh said, "He will not sit in Parliament and respond to Opposition leaders' concerns, but instead make election-rally speeches in both Houses. Before the beginning of each session, he will give his usual hypocrisy-laden 'desh ke naam sandesh'. Today's performance is part of this series."

Emphasising that it was natural for the attention to be focused on the budget, Modi said the country was "now moving out of long-pending problems and stepping firmly onto the path of long-term solutions".

"In every decision we take, national progress is our objective, but all our decisions are human-centric... We will compete with technology, adopt technology, and accept its potential, but simultaneously, we will not allow the human-centric system to be diminished in any way," he said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was going to table her ninth consecutive budget on Sunday, and she was the only woman finance minister in the country to achieve such a significant feat, the prime minister said."

Ajit Pawar's death triggers succession buzz around wife Sunetra in NCP

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

A day after Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and NCP president Ajit Pawar passed away, demands are growing for his wife and Rajya Sabha member Sunetra Pawar to step in and shoulder key party responsibilities.

Leaders from both the Ajit Pawar-led NCP and the Sharad Pawar-headed NCP (SP), speaking privately, also hinted at the possibility of a merger, saying it was Ajit's unfulfilled wish.

Ajit Pawar confidantes Pramod Hindurao and Narhari Zirwal — a minister in the Maha Yuti government—publicly demanded that Sunetra Pawar step into Ajit's role.

"Sunetra Pawar should be included in the ministry. We will speak to the leadership and make a decision," Zirwal said, indicating the possibility of her being made Deputy Chief Minister. "This would be a real tribute to Ajit Dada's legacy."

NCP leader Ajit Pawar with wife and party leader Sunetra Pawar at Vidhan Bhavan, in Mumbai. PTI FILE

The role of Pawar-clan patriarch Sharad Pawar is expected to be crucial in any decision related to family or party matters. However, over the past few months, Sharad has refrained from commenting on any merger or reunification of the two parties.

Soon after Ajit's funeral in Pune district's Baramati, his supporters demanded that Sunetra be appointed DyCM.

Since the NCP — a constituent of the BJP-led Maha Yuti–NDA coalition—does not have a clear succession plan, the party leadership is under pressure to respond to public sentiments.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Ajit Pawar fielded Sunetra against his niece and sitting Baramati MP Supriya Sule. Despite strained political relations, Sule — the NCP (SP) working president — was constantly by her sister-in-law's side during the period of mourning.

In a related development, NCP working president and family confidant Praful Patel, along with senior leaders Chhagan Bhujbal and Dhananjay Munde, met Sunetra after the funeral. The meeting was officially described as a "courtesy call".

NCP state vice-president and former CIDCO chairman Hindurao said: "Sunetra Pawar should carry forward her husband's legacy and take care of party workers during this difficult phase."

Indications are that formal discussions on an NCP-NCP (SP) merger are likely after the zilla parishad and gram panchayat elections, which the parties are contesting together under the clock symbol.

Ajit Pawar accorded state funeral

MUMBAI, DHNS: Amid chants of "Dada tumhala salaam" and "Ajit Dada amar rahe", lakhs of people on Thursday made a tearful adieu to Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and NCP president Ajit Pawar, who died in a plane crash in Baramati.

Pawar (66) and four others, including the crew, died after his plane crashed on Wednesday morning.

A sea of humanity poured onto the streets of Baramati.

Top politicians — including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, BJP president Nitin Nabin, Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis, and DyCM and Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde — were among the people at the funeral.

Black box found; probe intensifies

MUMBAI, DHNS: The black box on board the ill-fated chartered plane that crashed in Baramati in Pune district, killing five people, has been recovered, even as authorities reiterated that a transparent probe is underway.

Investigation teams have stepped up efforts and are examining all possible causes behind the Wednesday's plane crash.

It could have been caused by adverse weather conditions and poor visibility, technical issues, pilot judgement error, or a combination of factors, aviation experts said.

The plane, a Learjet 45 belonging to VSR Ventures Pvt Ltd with registration number VT-SSK, was carrying five people. It took off from the General Aviation Terminal of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai and was headed for Baramati.

"Ensuring a thorough, transparent and time-bound inquiry remains a top priority," the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) said on Wednesday.

Mortal remains of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar being brought to Vidya Pratishthan college ground for his funeral, in Baramati, on Thursday. PTI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is overseeing the probe.

A team of three officers from the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), Delhi, led by G V G Yugandhar, is in Baramati. Another team of three officers from the DGCA's Mumbai Regional Office has reached the crash site.

"The investigation is progressing expeditiously, and the black box of the ill-fated aircraft has been recovered," the MoCA said.

Aviation experts said that taking off and landing on a table-top runway is more challenging than operating on a normal runway.

Vijay fled Karur after stampede: EPS' U-turn on tragedy

CHENNAI, DHNS: AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami on Thursday launched a frontal attack on Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) chief Vijay for "fleeing" Karur after 41 people died in a stampede at a rally addressed by him without even visiting the affected families.

Palaniswami, who initially supported Vijay after the Karur tragedy and squarely blamed the DMK dispensation for the incident, has now blamed Vijay for going to Karur "without proper planning" and even accused him of not doing anything for the people of Tamil Nadu while earning crores of rupees as a superstar.

The AIADMK chief's attack on Vijay comes days after the actor-politician termed the party as a "corrupt-slave force" bringing it in the line of fire.

\This is also the first time that the AIADMK and Palaniswami have come out against Vijay after having indirectly appealed to the actor to join NDA.

Vijay has also been maintaining a studied silence on the AIADMK by choosing not to criticise the party.

'All is good,' says Tharoor after meeting Kharge, Rahul

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Disgruntled senior leader Shashi Tharoor on Thursday held a nearly two-hour-long meeting with top Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, with the Thiruvananthapuram MP saying that "all is good" between him and party leadership.

The deliberations were held at the office of Kharge, the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, in Parliament and were joined by the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. The meeting came days after Tharoor skipped a meeting on the Kerala elections, reportedly upset over Rahul allegedly ignoring him at a party function.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Shashi Tharoor in New Delhi. PTI

While there has been a thaw in Tharoor's relationship with Kerala leaders, he had been at loggerheads with the central leadership for some time over a range of issues, including his perception that he was ignored in the party hierarchy and not being considered as the party's chief ministerial face in Kerala.

"Thanks to Congress president Kharge-ji and LS LoP Rahul Gandhi-ji for a warm and constructive discussion today on a wide range of subjects. We are all on the same page as we move forward in the service of the people of India," Tharoor said, posting an image of the meeting on X.

Sources said General Secretary KC Venugopal facilitated the meeting after Tharoor expressed his intention to meet the two top leaders. No other leaders, including Venugopal, were present at the meeting, which also came amid speculation that Tharoor was in talks with the CPM.

"I had a discussion with my two leaders, the LoP and Congress president... all is good," Tharoor said after the meeting.

Kerala budget rolls out welfare push ahead of polls

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The election-year budget of the Left Front government in Kerala, presented on Thursday, offers a slew of welfare measures targeting marginalised sections such as gig workers, autorickshaw drivers and ASHA-Anganwadi workers, along with a pay commission and an assured pension scheme for government employees.

The budget, presented by Kerala Finance Minister K N Balagopal, provides for free education up to degree level in arts and science colleges and an accident and life insurance scheme for students from Class 1 to 12. At present, free education is offered only up to higher secondary level.

Gig hubs offering resting facilities will be set up for gig workers, considering their strenuous working conditions. For autorickshaw workers, the budget announced a scrappage bonus of Rs 40,000 for replacing diesel and petrol autorickshaws with electric ones, along with the modernisation of autorickshaw stands equipped with charging facilities.

An accident and life insurance scheme will also be introduced for workers in the unorganised labour sector, including autorickshaw and taxi drivers.

Monthly remuneration for various sections, including Anganwadi and ASHA workers, has been increased by Rs 1,000. Another highlight of the election-year budget is a scholarship scheme for students from minority communities to pursue education in foreign countries.

Amid the row over the Centre's revamp of the MGNREGA scheme, the state budget made an additional allocation of Rs 1,000 crore for MGNREGA.

Pay commission

Bringing cheer to lakhs of government employees and pensioners, the state government announced the formation of the 12th Pay Revision Commission. The finance minister also said that existing dues in dearness allowance would be cleared in February and March.

Kerala unveils India's first 'Elderly Budget' amid ageing population

Kerala on Thursday became the first state in the country to present an "Elderly Budget", with Finance Minister K N Balagopal tabling the document in the state Assembly while presenting the budget, reports PTI.

Balagopal said that, as per 2026 figures, senior citizens make up 18.7% of Kerala's population.

He said the state is facing a significant demographic shift, with an increase in the elderly population alongside a decline in the young population.

"Retirement homes capable of accommodating senior citizens who are isolated in their homes are to be set up. These homes should have community kitchens, playgrounds, entertainment facilities and healthcare systems. Besides, the services of health volunteers need to be ensured in such centres. The government will provide subsidies to organisations, groups and individuals to set up such retirement homes," Balagopal said.

He said Rs 30 crore has been set aside for this purpose. The minister said volunteer forces will be formed at the local level to help elderly people who live alone.

GREEN GLORY

Meghalaya's living root bridges aim for Unesco spotlight

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

The Jingkieng Jri, or living root bridges of Meghalaya, an attraction for both tourists and ecologists, has been nominated as India's official entry for Unesco World Heritage Site status for 2026-27.

A dossier supporting the proposal for the coveted tag was submitted on January 28 to Lazare Assomo Eloundou, director of Unesco's World Heritage Centre, by Vishal V Sharma, India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to Unesco.

Spanning small rivers across the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, the living root bridges represent an exceptional cultural landscape shaped over centuries by the indigenous Khasi and Jaintia communities.

"The landscape represents a deep-rooted harmonious relationship between people, nature and spirituality, embodied in traditional systems of land use and ecological stewardship. Central to this cultural landscape is the indigenous worldview anchored in principles of respect, reciprocity and responsibility towards mei ramew (Mother Earth)," said a note issued by the Meghalaya government.

The local communities share a spiritual bond with the bridges, which aids their protection and ensures ecological well-being. The Jingkieng Jris are among the major attractions for tourists and researchers visiting Meghalaya.

The submission of the dossier followed the conferment of the Padma award on Meghalaya's Hally War, in recognition of his lifelong efforts to practise, promote and conserve the tradition of sustainable natural heritage.

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Grace, Smriti take RCB to WPL final

Star in eight-wicket win over UP Warriorz

Page 15

'Capable of dividing society': SC stays new UGC regulations

Questions sections of framework on caste-based discrimination

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday put the operation of the UGC's 2026 regulations against caste-based discrimination on campuses on hold, saying the new framework is capable of dividing society and may have a grave impact.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi issued notices, returnable by March 19, to the Centre and the UGC on pleas challenging validity of University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026.

The court said the 2012 regulations will continue to operate for the time being, so that the complainants are not left remediless.

Dealing with petitions questioning exclusion of 'general' students from the grievance redressal mechanism, the bench asked: "In a country after 75 years, whatever we have gained in terms of developing a casteless society, are we going regressive? What will happen?"

Questioning certain sections of the regulations, the bench said: "...you are talking of separate hostels, for God's sake, please do not do that! We have been in hostels; students have been living together. We have developed inter-caste marriages also. We should move forward towards a casteless society."

▸ SC stay, Page 6

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- SC says framework 'prima facie vague'
- Tags present pleas with 2019 petitions filed by mothers of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi
- CJI suggests matter be revisited by expert panel
- Bench questions need for separate definition of 'caste-based discrimination' when there is a broad definition

> "Most harassment happens on junior-senior lines. Why is it assumed that only caste-based discrimination exists? Whatever we have gained in terms of achieving a casteless society, are we now becoming regressive?
> - SUPREME COURT

SURVEY ASSESSMENT

- Medium-term growth potential upgraded to **7%** from **6.5%**
- FY27 growth pegged at **6.8%** to **7.2%**, up from 6.3% to 6.8%
- Industrial sector showing signs of strength, mfg growing by **8.4%**
- With **$135.4 bn** inflows, India world's largest recipient of remittances
- **$701.4 bn** forex reserves provide cover for 11 months imports

GDP to grow at 7%, projects Econ Survey

India to remain fastest growing large economy

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Days ahead of the Union Budget, the Centre on Thursday claimed India will maintain its position as the fastest growing major economy with medium-term growth potential accelerating to 7% from 6.5% three years ago.

According to the Economic Survey 2025-26 tabled in Parliament by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow in the range of 6.8 to 7.2% in the financial year 2026-27.

Though the midpoint projected growth of 7% for the next financial year beginning April 2026 is lower than the estimated growth of 7.4% in the current fiscal, the Survey projection is higher.

For the current financial year, last year's Economic Survey had pegged growth in the range of 6.3 to 6.8%, with a midpoint of 6.5%. In the first half of the year, it stood at 8% and according to the first advance estimate by the National Statistics Office (NSO), the full year growth is likely to be 7.4%. With around 7% estimated growth in 2026-27, India is set to remain the fastest-growing major economy for the fourth consecutive year.

▸ Econ Survey, Page 6
More reports, Pages 2 &13

> "Our macroeconomic fundamentals are stronger than ever. We have successfully navigated global headwinds to place India on a high-growth trajectory, improving our potential GDP growth to 7%
> **Nirmala Sitharaman**
> Finance Minister

> India is indeed an oasis of macro stability in an otherwise turbulent world
> **V Anantha Nageswaran**
> Chief Economic Adviser

'Digital addiction health concern'

Excessive scrolling, short-video compulsion and binge-watching with endless video loops are becoming significant public health concerns, says the Economic Survey. It warns against digital addiction among Indian youth, and calls for providing alternatives to digital spaces.

Details on Page 13

Survey flags splurging by states

With state after state splurging on populist electoral doles, the Economic Survey on Thursday warned that states' fiscal indiscipline will have an adverse impact on the sovereign borrowing costs and pose emerging risks.

Graft: Ex-senior official gets 3 years in jail

BENGALURU, DHNS: A Bengaluru court has sentenced S Srinivasa Murthy, former deputy commissioner of Excise, Chikkaballapur district, to three years simple imprisonment and fined him Rs 1.34 crore in a disproportionate assets case.

The Lokayukta police had submitted a chargesheet against the official after he was found with assets disproportionate to his known sources of income in his name and in the names of his family members.

Details on Page 3B

Rs 26 cr: Biggest seizure from single official

BENGALURU, DHNS: A Forest Department official was found to possess assets worth Rs 26.55 crore during Lokayukta raids on Thursday, officials said, marking the largest seizure from an official in recent years.

Tejesh Kumar N, an assistant commissioner, owns 14 acres of farmland, eight houses and four sites — all valued at Rs 25.63 crore — as well as Rs 92 lakh worth personal vehicles, according to the Lokayukta police.

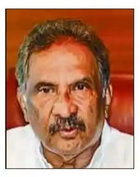
Details on Page 3B

George denies reports of quitting over CM son 'meddling'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Energy Minister K J George clarified on the floor of the Assembly that he had not resigned due to 'interference' from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son Dr Yathindra.

George was forced to clarify after BJP lawmaker V Sunil Kumar said news had broken about the minister's resignation. "The news is that George has resigned because of interference by the CM's son. [George] is right here. Let him clarify," Kumar said.

"Have I spoken to the news channels? There is no question of resignation. I have full faith in the CM. I support the CM," George said.



There was buzz that George had either offered or threatened to resign. George is seen as a close associate of Siddaramaiah. The CM also clarified that George had not resigned.

Recently, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh issued a notice to Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd managing director Pankaj Kumar Pandey, who reports to George.

Apparently, George was upset with the notice issued to Pandey and the 'interference' in the transfer of officials in the Chikkamagaluru district.

▸ George, Page 6

WATER PROJECT

Yettinahole: CAG flags 'deficiencies'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Yettinahole drinking water project faces 'financial uncertainty' over how the government will raise nearly Rs 8,000 crore required to complete works, the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) said with scathing observations Thursday.

The CAG report, tabled in the Assembly, found 'deficiencies' and 'deviations' in the tender process, leading to 'undue benefit' to contractors. The audit spanned 2012-13 to 2022-23.

The project aims to draw 24 tmcft of water from the Yettinahole river in Sakaleshpur to meet the drinking water needs of Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Tumakuru, Ramanagara districts and some parts of Bengaluru.

First approved in 2012, when the BJP was in power, the drinking water project cost was estimated at Rs 8,323 crore. In 2014, it was revised to Rs 12,912.36 crore after the Congress came to power.

In January 2023, the cost was again revised to Rs 23,251.66 crore.

▸ Yettinahole, Page 6

Contractors threaten stir over dues

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Contractors' Association has issued a stern warning to the government, threatening a statewide stir if pending bills amounting to Rs 37,370 crore are not cleared immediately. According to a memorandum submitted to CM Siddaramaiah, the WRD leads the list of defaulters with Rs 13,000 crore in outstanding dues.

Details on Page 3B

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Now, voters can request a call from booth-level officers in city

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Election Commission has introduced a 'Book a Call' service on its website, allowing voters to get voter list–related grievances addressed by Booth-Level Officers (BLOs) at their respective polling stations.

After submitting a request, voters will receive a reference ID, following which the BLO will call the voter on the registered mobile number to resolve the grievance.

The facility is available as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)–2025 preactivity.

Kanakanapalya residents fear fresh flooding as monsoon nears

Locals seek permanent fix to storm water drain

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Residents of Kanakanapalya in the upscale neighbourhood of Jayanagar have endured repeated flooding, with sewage-mixed water entering homes during rains.

The blocked storm water drain linking Lalbagh Lake is said to be the cause, but neither the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) nor the Bengaluru Central City Corporation has acted to resolve the issue.

With the monsoon approaching, residents fear fresh flooding, even as RV Teachers College has undertaken restoration of the drain passing through its premises.

Flooding is so severe that three-feet deep water covers the road between RV Road signal and Ashoka Pillar circle for hours, disrupting traffic and affecting about 50 houses on 7th Cross Road and 7th Main Road.

The rajakaluve, earlier covered with concrete slabs, has been de-silted.

Residents want civic authorities to be directly involved in restoring the drain to its original condition and insist it remain uncovered.

Sharada Reddy, a resident of Kanakanapalya Road, said the rajakaluve is meant to receive water from all sides, but covering it with a slab pushes water onto the road.

Residents demand authorities restore the drain to its original condition and keep it uncovered. DH PHOTO/NAVEEN MENEZES

A view of Kanakanapalya in Jayanagar during rain-triggered flooding.

"No law allows the rajakaluve to be converted into a parking space. The civic body has built a shoulder drain next to the rajakaluve, but it leads nowhere. After the rajakaluve path was diverted, it took seven hours for the rainwater to drain completely," she said.

A resident living behind the college also complained of flood water entering her house and the street remaining submerged for hours during rains.

Initially, engineers of the Central City Corporation blamed the GBA for the maintenance of the rajakaluve. However, when *DH* contacted the GBA's projects department in charge of storm water drain works, officials said the responsibility lay with the corporation. When *DH* again reached out to the corporation, its engineers said the drain restoration was being carried out by a private college.

A college office-bearer said the institution is also affected by flooding. "We tried to solve the problem by building an alternate drain. We are also desilting the old drain, which was blocked by a large tree."

Chickpet MLA Uday Garudachar said he was not aware of the issue. "No resident has raised a complaint with me."

Agencies pass the buck

Initially, engineers of the Central City Corporation blamed the GBA for the maintenance of the rajakaluve. However, the GBA's projects department in charge of storm water drain works told DH that the corporation was responsible.

When contacted again, corporation engineers said the drain restoration work was being undertaken by a private college.

Operator, mechanic die in lift collapse at construction site

BENGALURU, DHNS: An operator and a mechanic died when a material lift collapsed at a construction site in eastern Bengaluru on Wednesday, officials said.

The deceased are Sathya Kumar (24), a lift operator from Bihar, and Muthappa KA (20), a lift mechanic from Madikeri. The incident occurred at an SS VR construction site within the Varthur police limits.

On Thursday, Kumar's wife lodged a complaint with the Varthur police, alleging gross negligence by the contractor, Sudheer, and the site engineer, whose name is yet to be confirmed.

A case has been registered under Section 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (causing death by negligence).

Police said that the autopsies will be conducted on Friday, after which the bodies will be handed over to the families.

Further investigation is underway.

Rs 200 cr from 6 applications: Premium FAR takes off in B'luru

HC allows builders to add floors by paying a fee

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Just a month after the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) rolled out its premium floor area ratio (FAR) policy, the civic body has received six applications seeking permission to build additional floors by paying a fee.

From these alone, the GBA expects to collect about Rs 200 crore, officials said.

The scheme was formally launched last month after the Karnataka High Court upheld the policy, dismissing petitions filed by landowners who had received Transferable Development Rights (TDR) certificates. The court ruled that TDR and premium FAR are complementary mechanisms.

A senior GBA town planning officer told *DH* that six applications have been received so far. "We have collected around Rs 100 crore from just one builder," the official said, adding that the policy, long in force in Mangaluru, has the potential to generate over Rs 2,000 crore annually.

The premium FAR policy, drafted by the state government last year, allows an increase in FAR of up to 60%. Of this, 20% is reserved for utilisation through TDR certificates, while developers can load the remaining 40% by paying a premium equivalent to 28% of the guidance value.

How premium FAR works

- **Land:** 10,000sq m
- **Guidance value:** Rs 5,000 per sqm
- **Old FAR (2.5):** 25,000 sqm built-up (approx 5 floors)
- **New policy:** Builder can add **2 extra floors (10,000 sqm)**
- Cost: **Rs 1,400 per sqm;** total: **Rs 1.4 crore**
- **Bottom line:** Pay a premium to build extra floors beyond the old FAR limit.

For instance, a builder owning 10,000 sqm of land with a guidance value of Rs 5,000 per sqm could, under the earlier FAR of 2.5, construct up to 25,000 sqm of built-up area (around five floors). Under the new policy, the builder can add two more floors by paying Rs 1,400 per sqm (28% of the guidance value) for an additional 10,000 sqm — amounting to Rs 1.4 crore.

The policy applies to real estate projects, particularly those larger than 5,000 sqft, in and around Bengaluru, including areas under planning authorities such as the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), Bengaluru–Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority, Anekal, Kanakapura, Ramanagara, Channapatna, Magadi, Nelamangala, Bengaluru International Airport Area, and Hoskote.

While the policy is expected to give a boost to the construction sector and potentially reduce apartment costs, builders have urged the GBA to ensure that revenue generated through premium FAR is used exclusively for infrastructure creation.

"The authority should create an escrow account and publicly disclose how the money is utilised," a prominent builder told *DH*.

Namma 112 handles 5 lakh calls in 2025; 18% rise from 2024

BENGALURU, DHNS

'Namma 112', the city's emergency response system, received 5,22,742 calls in 2025, a 17.8% rise from 2024.

In 2024, there were 4,23,912 calls, with 1,02,480 made by women.

"Comparing the data with the previous year, we have deduced that the increase in calls has reduced 'hurt cases' by 9 per cent. By reaching locations quickly and de-escalating situations, we brought down the cases of hurt filed annually," Kuldeep Kumar Jain, Joint Commissioner of Police (Administration), told *DH*.

Kuldeep Kumar Jain

Since its launch in 2022, the emergency response system has steadily evolved into a technology-driven, citizen-facing safety network focused on speed, accountability and access.

The latest addition is number masking. "With this feature, you can track developments after making a complaint by checking with the Hoysala team. The Hoysala team can contact the caller, but will not have access to the caller's actual number."

In mid-2025, the system migrated from PRI to SIP technology, reducing call congestion and improving reliability.

Caller number masking was added for privacy.

Ola and Uber were integrated so passengers could contact emergency services directly.

When launched under the Safe City Project, supported by the Centre's Nirbhaya Fund, the system had 320 Hoysala vehicles and handled 2.5 lakh emergency calls in the first year.

New features

Over the years, new features have been added.

In 2023, body-worn cameras were introduced, making Bengaluru the first city to integrate live camera feeds into its emergency workflow.

Dash cameras were also installed in patrol vehicles to improve documentation and evidence collection.

In 2024, citizen-facing features expanded.

Callers began receiving SMS links to track Hoysala vehicles in real time, followed by structured feedback after incidents. Emergency Call Boxes at Safety Islands were integrated with Namma 112, enabling people to seek help without mobile phones.

A two-way audio-video feature, Safe Connect, was introduced through the Karnataka State Police app, allowing control room staff to view emergencies live.

BDA begins PRR compensation disbursal

BENGALURU, DHNS

Months after the state government introduced five compensation models, some property owners have begun giving up land for the 73-km Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC), which encircles the city's outskirts.

This is a major boost for the project, stalled for two decades over land acquisition issues.

On Wednesday, Major Manivannan, Commissioner of Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), symbolically exchanged property records and compensation papers with some landowners.

The BDA requires 1,810 acres for the project, previously known as the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR).

BDA Commissioner Major Manivannan symbolically exchanges property records and compensation papers with landowners. PHOTO: BDA OFFICE

The authority is offering compensation including cash, developed commercial or residential sites, transferable development rights (TDR) certificates, and additional floor area ratio (FAR).

Not all farmers are giving up land, with some demanding compensation under the Centre's 2013 Act.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has called a meeting of landowners on Monday to address their compensation concerns.

Economic Survey moots congestion pricing, legalising bike taxis to plug public transit gaps

BENGALURU, DHNS: Introducing targeted congestion pricing in dense business districts is among the five measures proposed in the Economic Survey 2025 to address gaps in mass transit services in Bengaluru and other cities.

The core idea, the survey said, is to internalise the external costs of congestion, such as delays, pollution and fuel waste, so that users of the most congested roads bear the true cost of their travel.

This, in turn, is expected to reduce the number of private vehicles during peak hours on heavily congested corridors, improve travel speeds, and encourage public transport use, carpooling and off-peak travel.

The survey cited examples from Singapore and London.

At a high-level meeting in November, Biocon Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw had proposed a congestion tax along the Outer Ring Road (ORR), while the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) suggested that large tech parks and private companies introduce pay-and-park systems.

The Economic Survey also recommended legalising and standardising shared autos, e-rickshaws, minibuses and bike taxis through simplified permits, designated pickup bays and app-based integration.

Measures proposed include

- Scaling city bus fleets to 40–60 buses per lakh population and pairing fleet expansion with end-to-end digital systems.
- Combining interest subvention (to 3–4%), credit guarantees and refinancing to lower tariffs under gross cost contracts and improve project bankability.
- Implementing the National Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Policy through 500–800 metre station influence zones, higher FAR, mixed-use zoning and value capture tools to shorten trip lengths and cluster jobs near transit hubs.

Citing a working paper by the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), the survey estimated that traffic congestion led to the loss of 7.07 lakh productive hours in Bengaluru in 2018, translating into an economic cost of about Rs 11.7 billion.

A 2018 Uber–BCG report estimated that traffic congestion cost Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kolkata a combined US$22 billion annually, it added.

The survey underlined that the underlying problem is a growing dependence on private vehicles.

"The vital signs of our cities are poor because roads are used more as storage for vehicles rather than corridors for people. Streets are congested not because citizens are moving excessively, but because cars carry too few passengers," it noted.

"While private vehicles have their advantages, the problem arises when they become a necessity rather than one choice among several viable options. The lack of alternatives leads to congestion and its resulting ills, as citizens compete for limited road space using geometrically inefficient modes of transport," the survey said.

Man held at airport after claiming his bag contained bombs

BENGALURU, DHNS: A Bengaluru businessman was arrested by the airport police at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) for allegedly claiming there were bombs in his luggage, officials said on Thursday.

The arrested person is Abu Aqeel Azhar Chad, 52, a Wilson Garden resident and cloth merchant. He was travelling with an associate.

Police said on January 28 at 6.12 am, the duo was preparing to board IndiGo flight 6E-586 (Bengaluru–Ahmedabad). During checks at Aerobridge Gate 30, Chad claimed there were "two small bombs" in his bag, the FIR stated.

He was detained and handed over to the airport police, who booked him under BNS sections 125 (act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 353 (1)(b) (statements conducing to public mischief).

During questioning, the police found the suspect was irked by heightened airport checks for Republic Day.

Despite warnings by Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) officials, he continued claiming he had bombs in his luggage, creating nuisance and a threatening atmosphere for other passengers.

IN THE CITY

GENERAL

Sun Pharma Science Foundation: National conference on antimicrobial resistance; TS Balaganesh, HB Veena Kumari and others; St Joseph University, Lalbagh Road; from 9 am onwards.

Bharat Scouts and Guides: Sarvodaya Dinacharane; BG Gujjarappa, HS Nagamohan Das and others; Kondajji Basappa Hall, Palace Road; 10.30 am.

Seva In Action: National Seminar on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 and its role in providing educational and skill needs of differently abled persons; St Johns Medical College, Sarjapur; 9.30 am.

Mahatma Gandhi Study Centre: Observing Martyr's Day, Jnanajyoti Hall; 10.30 am.

Souharda Karnataka: 'Mahatma Hutatma'-pledge for tolerance, HN Nagamohan Das, Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy, KR Sandhya Reddy, Mavalli Shankar and others; Samsa Open Air Theatre, JC Road; from 4.30 pm onwards.

CULTURAL

Saptaswara Arts and Creatiosn: 'Sankramana Nrutyutsava' dance festival; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 5.30 pm.

Ntrutya Disha Trust: Bharatanayta recital by SH Bhoomika, A Hansika, P Priyadarshini, R Shraddha and others; Nayana Hall, JC Road; 5.30 pm.

Nadajyoti Sangita Sabha Trust: Music by GK Manohar, Keshava Mohan Kumar, Anirudh S Bhat and Bhargava Halambi; Sri Rama Mandira, East Park Road, Malleswaram; 6 pm.

Saket Nataka: Staging of play 'Java-Ondu Amara Premakate'; Rangashankara; 7.30 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Ramamandira: Discourse on 'Jaimini Bharata' by Pavagada Prakasha Rao; Ramamandira, NR Colony; 5.45 pm.

Vakila Bhakta Vrunda: Remembering Shivakumaraswami, Veerabhadra Chennamalla Deshikendra Swami and others; NGO Hall, Cubbon Park; 5.30 pm.

CITY WEATHER

FORECAST

Fog mist in the morning and mainly clear sky later

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.0°C
Minimum	17.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	95%
Sunset (Jan 30)	6:19 pm
Sunrise (Jan 31)	6:46 am
Moonrise	2:42 pm
Moonset	3:07 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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Inspector arrested for taking Rs 4-lakh bribe in cheating case

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka Lokayukta police on Thursday caught a Bengaluru police inspector taking a bribe of Rs 4 lakh from a man named in a cheating case.

Govindaraju, posted at the Kempapura Agrahara police station, allegedly demanded Rs 5 lakh to help the man, who was named in a chit fund-related cheating case registered on January 8. He had already taken Rs 1 lakh, officials said.

The man later approached the Lokayukta police, who laid a trap for the inspector at the Central Armed Reserve (CAR) grounds in Chamarajpet around 4.30 pm.

After the bribe of Rs 4 lakh was exchanged, Lokayukta police arrested him.

Govindaraju has been booked under Section 7A (taking undue advantage to influence a public servant by corrupt or illegal means or by exercise of personal influence) of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

"The complainant said the inspector had demanded bribes several times in the same case," a Lokayukta police source told *DH*.

International Trade Fair: Pre-event at Kristu Jayanti

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Department of Life Sciences at Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University), on Thursday organised a pre-event for the International Trade Fair 2026.

The programme formally inaugurated activities leading up to the fair, scheduled to be held on February 6, 7 and 8 at Palace Grounds.

It aimed to create awareness among students and stakeholders about sustainable agriculture, healthy food practices and farmer-centric development. At the fair, farmers will be able to showcase, brand and sell their produce, particularly millets, directly to consumers.

Agriculture Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy with Agriculture Department Principal Secretary S Selvakumar, Commissioner for Agriculture YS Patil, Kristu Jayanti University Vice-Chancellor Rev Dr Fr Augustine George and others at the pre-event for the International Trade Fair 2026.

Minister for Agriculture N Chaluvarayaswamy said such platforms are vital for economically empowering farmers while promoting the consumption of nutritious and traditional food grains.

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Hoarding revenue will not be significant: activists

They will add to the clutter and ruin the city's beauty, they say

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

Civic activists and urban planners have expressed concern over the state government effectively lifting the ban on outdoor advertisements, which includes hoardings and banners, in Bengaluru. It adds to the clutter and also poses a danger to motorists, they say.

Gangambike Mallikarjuna, former mayor of Bengaluru, points out that when they imposed the ban eight years ago, it was due to a lack of revenue and their contribution to road accidents. "Back then, the advertisers were not paying the taxes and so the revenue was poor. Additionally, we would often hear reports of these roadside banners causing accidents," recalls Gangambike, who was a part of the council that enforced the ban.

Former corporator, Padmanabha Reddy, notes that roadside hoardings and banners were a necessity at a time when digital advertising and electronic media were not so advanced. "The beauty of the city will be ruined. I do not think this will benefit the government in any way. The revenue generated will not be significant," explains Reddy, another council member responsible for imposing the ban.

Unregulated usage of hoardings and banners could pose a danger to motorists, activists say. DH FILE PHOTO

Strict regulations

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) stands to make a revenue of about Rs 300 crore, Munish Moudgil, special commissioner (revenue), GBA, tells *Metrolife*. "The High Court has ordered in a writ petition that it be allowed in a regulated manner after private advertisers went to court. The right approach is putting in place strict regulations and limits with penalties and punishment for violations. That's what we are doing," he explains.

Labelling it a 'sovereignty' issue, a noted civic activist states that it is strange that the state government should rule on city matters. "Can the Gujarat government ban alcohol in Bengaluru?" he asks, and adds that if the councillors imposed the ban, it should be the councillors who lift it, and not a "third party". "I would suggest they hold the civic polls first," he elaborates.

An eyesore

Having returned from Chennai recently, he notes that the flex banners and hoardings were an eyesore. However, there is no clarity yet on whether political banners are allowed under the new rules. He further explains that when a contractor leases the space, he in turn rents it out to a third party at a profit. "The contractor will make a lot of money, but the GBA will only make a fraction of that amount," he says.

A more serious concern is the effect non-biodegradable flex banners and posters will have on the environment. "We often find these materials discarded in water bodies around the city," says Vinod Jacob, an environmentalist. People prefer PVC to cloth banners because cloth banners are three to four times costlier.

However, urban planner Ashwin Mahesh believes "aesthetics could not get any worse". He reasons that with Bengaluru's property taxes being so low, compared to major cities around the world, the civic authority needs to find ways to make money. "In Mumbai, the municipal corporation has a budget of over Rs 70,000 crore. In comparison, the budget for places like Kalaburagi and Erode in Tamil Nadu are only a very small fraction of that amount. In Bengaluru, these advertisements will add a few hundred crores to their revenue. I think the state should allocate more money to the municipality," he says.

POPCORN

Energy drunk

This comes from Tamil Nadu, where actor Vijay is all made up and ready for a role in politics. His father S A Chandrashekar just invited the Congress to ally with his party, the Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam. The new party, dad says, will give the Congress a boost and help it regain its old glory. Leaders of the Congress weren't impressed — they said they needed no boost from Vijay when they had Rahul Gandhi to give them Boost, Horlicks and Bournvita.

Good to know politicians are talking about non-alcoholic beverages. Usually, around election time, it's liquor for the men and cooker for the women.

With rides legalised, bike taxis get cheaper

Users report lower fares and quicker bookings after HC lifts 2025 ban

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

The bike taxi ban was officially lifted on January 23. DH FILE PHOTO

Users of bike taxis are getting rides faster since the High Court lifted a ban on them on January 23.

Karnataka banned bike taxis on June 16, 2025, but after the court intervened, services resumed informally in late August. The High Court, officially lifted the ban on January 23, and since then, booking a bike ride has become significantly easier, users say.

A Rapido spokesperson said many users were choosing bikes over autos and cabs, especially for short, peak-hour trips. "Daily bike taxi trips increased by approximately 10,000, translating to a 5% rise in overall daily rides since the ban was lifted," the spokesperson said. During regulatory uncertainty (between August 2025 and January 2026), Rapido introduced its Scooty service, now contributing close to 20% of overall two-wheeler trips.

Ban timeline

Between April 2025 and January 2026, bike taxi services in Karnataka saw multiple legal turns: on April 2 last year, a High Court order had halted services. It later allowed them to run till June 15, before it ordered a statewide ban, which took effect on June 16, sparking protests by over 5,000 riders.

In August, apps resumed services unofficially, but the High Court clarified that no official, legal resumption was authorised, and a government-appointed panel in November backed the ban.

Finally, a division bench on January 23, 2026, set aside the order, allowing services to resume with proper registration.

Lower prices

Akanksha Prasad, a college student, noted that fares had dropped since last Friday. "Earlier, I would pay Rs 68-70 for a bike ride from the metro station to my house. Now I am paying Rs 50-60," she explained. The Rapido spokesperson said fare structures had "stabilised".

A reality check by *Metrolife* showed that bike taxi prices dropped from Rs 130 to Rs 120 for a 14 km ride, with ride confirmation taking an average of two to six minutes.

BETTER POLICIES

Some drivers reported reduced hostility from auto drivers and police, but expressed the need for better regulations. Adi Narayana M echoed this sentiment, urging the government to establish policies for bike taxi drivers.

TRANSPORT MINISTER SAYS

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy stated he would discuss further steps with the Chief Minister after reviewing the judgment and seeking the Advocate General's opinion.

Easier bookings

Mani Kumar, a dental assistant, reported that it has become easier to get a bike taxi through ride aggregator apps. "I used to wait at least 10 minutes for a ride confirmation; now the wait is under three minutes," he said.

Adi Narayana M, president of the Bike Taxi Welfare Association, attributed this to more gig workers signing up to ride bike taxis since the ruling.

Last mile advantage

An Ola spokesperson emphasised the importance of bike taxis in improving last-mile connectivity, while an Uber spokesperson stated that the High Court's decision had provided relief to drivers relying on bike taxi services.

EVENTS

Cultural evening

Craftizen Foundation will host an event for persons with intellectual disabilities on Saturday. The event will include creative workshops, cultural activities by individuals from the community, and talks. On January 31, 9.30 am. Entry free. At Rotary Club, Promenade Road. For details, call 94879 56405.

Youth exhibition

The Indian Music Experience (IME) museum, J P Nagar presents 'Voices of time', an exhibition curated and executed entirely by its Youth Advisory Board, comprising 14- to 17-year olds. Guided walks will be held on the opening day, February 1, at 12.30 pm and 4.30 pm. On until March 15. Register at indianmusicexperience.org

Lake walk

Benniganahalli Kere Trust and Pai Layout Resident Welfare Association are organising 'Walk with doctor', a walk around the recently revived lake with a pulmonologist. The walk will also include a guided exercise routine. On February 1, 7.30 am, Benniganahalli lake. Entry free. For details, contact 93412 60848.

Odissi dance

Odissi dancer and choreographer Shashwati Garai Ghosh, along with her team, will perform 'Yati — Moving towards light', depicting a discovery through the five stages of a margam. On February 3, 7 pm, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. RSVP to bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Concert of devotional poetry on Sunday

A concert scheduled for Sunday will celebrate the philosophies of saints Tukaram and Kabir. Hindustani classical vocalists Jayateerth Mevundi and Bhuvanesh Komkali will take turns performing the devotional poetry of Tukaram and Kabir, known as Abhangwani and Kabirwani, respectively. Narrator, Dhanashree Lele, will provide context and interpretation to the verses.

The two-hour show, titled 'Tuka Mhane Kahe Kabira', is being hosted by Pancham Nishad Creatives, a cultural organisation from Mumbai.

A Sanskrit scholar, Dhanashree says, "Kabir speaks of nirguna bhakti (the formless divine), while Tukaram praises Vithoba, a Hindu deity. But both emphasise the lives of common people and criticise vices such as ego and greed."

On February 1, 5.30 pm, at Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval. Tickets online.

Race for 7 Returns to Bengaluru

The Organisation for Rare Diseases India, based in Bengaluru, will host its annual awareness run, 'Race for 7', on February 22. Registrations are now open. Those interested can participate in the run to be held in the city or run remotely from any location in India.

The number 7 in the event title is symbolic of the more than 7,000 rare diseases that affect nearly 70 million Indians. Nearly 50 per cent of these patients are children. The run is non-competitive and aims to raise awareness.

Visit racefor7.com to register.

All-night music festival on Jan 31

A dawn-to-dusk music festival, titled 'Smruthi', this weekend honours the memory of the well-known Hindustani classical vocalist Arjunsa Nakod.

M Venkatesh Kumar

This is the 23rd edition of the festival, and is organised by Renuka Sangeeth Sabha.

The overnight concert celebrates Indian classical music through a rich and varied line-up. Pandit M Venkatesh Kumar from Dharwad will be conferred the Ganabhanu Pt Arjunsa Nakod Gourav Puraskar. He is performing at the festival.

Other highlights include a percussion trio featuring Yogesh Samsi (tabla), Patri Satishkumar (mridangam), and Giridhar Udupa (ghatam), a vocal recital by Pranamita Roy, and jugalbandi performances by Anirudh Aital and Shadaj Godkhindi, and by Ankush N Nayak with Sumanth Manjunath.

Members of the Nakod family and other artistes will accompany the performers on the tabla, harmonium, and mridangam.

January 31, 9.30 pm to February 1, 6.30 am, at Ravindra Kalakshetra, J C Road. Entry free.

PARAS

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Innovative device for paralysis patients wins big on reality show

The non-surgical product improves mobility through spinal cord neuromodulation

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

A non-invasive device to improve mobility in people with paralysis, developed by Bengaluru-based Vivatronix Technologies, recently won an investment of Rs 1 crore on a business reality show. The five-member panel of investors called the device "magical" and praised his 17 years of research.

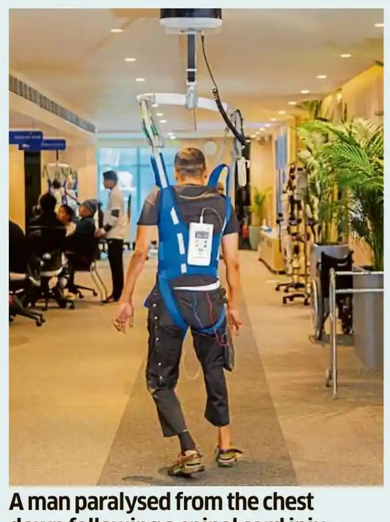
xStep is a spinal cord neuromodulation device that delivers electrical pulses to the spine. "Just as a pacemaker activates the heart, this device stimulates the nerves in the spine that control muscles and movement. It can restore some degree of mobility in people affected by spinal cord injury, stroke, brain injury, Parkinson's, or cerebral palsy," explains Parag Gad, the neuroengineering entrepreneur behind it.

Parag Gad, who's behind the product.

Gad says spinal cord stimulation for movement has been studied worldwide for over 25 years. What he and his professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, have done is translate this research into a wearable device for home use. "It also induces neuroplasticity, which means it allows improvements in movement to sustain for hours, even days, after the device is switched off. However, we are not claiming it can reverse paralysis," says the 39-year-old born in Hubballi.

So far, around 1,000 patients, aged between 2 and 75 and spread around the world, have used the device, and "nearly 90% have reported an improvement in quality of life". Gad shares stories behind these statistics: "A child with cerebral palsy who could not hold her head up can now sit independently. Another, who could not walk even with a walker, is now walking without support. A man with severe bladder issues, who earlier woke up six to eight times a night, now sleeps without interruption."

He has seen families defy odds in their search for rehabilitative care. A family from South America is currently staying in Bengaluru for their child's therapy. In another case, a man injured in a road accident while visiting Hyderabad from the US was paralysed from the chest down and had to quit his job. When Gad relocated to Bengaluru from the US in 2023, his family moved here to access this therapy. Today, he can sit and walk, has regained some hand movement, eats on his own, and has better bladder control. "The man and his wife have made it their life's mission to help other families like them and are planning to open a rehabilitation centre in Karnataka," says Gad.


A man paralysed from the chest down following a spinal cord injury uses xStep at a rehab facility in Koramangala.

Though Gad is "not very emotional", one story left him speechless. A man paralysed since the age of 15 approached him for help at 49. "He told me for the first time in his life, he was able to have an erection and be intimate with his wife," Gad recalls.

Since receiving the Indian drug controller's approval last October, over 40 units of xStep have been sold, priced at Rs 3 lakh each.

For those who cannot afford it or wish to try it first, therapy is available at Walk Again, a rehabilitation centre in Koramangala. On average, 10 to 15 people are undergoing therapy there daily, paying Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,000 per session.

Bus transport unions' protest today over arrears, pay hike

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bus transport employees' unions will undertake a protest rally in the city on Friday for the fulfillment of two of their long-pending demands.

The Joint Action Committee of the Trade Unions of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, which represents six employee unions, has been demanding the payment of Rs 1,785 crore in arrears for 38 months (January 1, 2020, to February 28, 2023) and a 25% pay hike from January 1, 2024.

On November 26 last year, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah held a meeting with the committee representatives and offered a pay hike from April 1, 2026. He also reiterated his offer to clear Rs 718 crore in arrears for 14 months (from January 1, 2022, to February 28, 2023).

On December 13, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy called a meeting and presented certain proposals on behalf of the transport corporations. However, the committee did not accept the proposals and reiterated the demands. Reddy assured that he would discuss the matter with the chief minister and convene another meeting to resolve the issue. The committee said the assurance was not fulfilled.

Stating that the government and the management of transport corporations are testing the limits of the workers' patience, the committee had called for a 'Bengaluru Chalo' protest meeting at Freedom Park from 10 am to 4 pm on January 29 (Thursday).

The meeting was postponed to Friday following the passing away of the committee's convenor and veteran trade union leader, H V Ananth Subbarao.

Contractors warn of statewide stir if Rs 37K cr dues not cleared

Minister hits back, terms it as politically motivated

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka State Contractors' Association (KSCA) has issued a stern warning to the state government, threatening a statewide stir if pending bills amounting to Rs 37,370 crore are not cleared immediately.

The Association, which was at the forefront of the '40% commission' allegations against the previous government, now claims that the situation under the current Congress-led government has turned "more chaotic."

Addressing a press conference in the city on Thursday, KSCA President R Manjunath expressed frustration over the government's continued negligence.

"It has been two and a half years since this government took charge. Yet our pleas remain unheard. Except for minor releases in the PWD and BBMP, no funds have reached contractors in other major departments," Manjunath said.

According to a memorandum submitted to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the Water Resources Department leads the list of defaulters with Rs 13,000 crore in outstanding dues, followed by the Public Works Department (PWD) at Rs 8,370 crore.

Other departments, including Urban Development and Minor Irrigation, account for the remainder of the Rs 37,370.76 crore debt.

The Association alleged that it was a historical practice to release payments during major festivals, like Dasara and Deepavali. But the current administration has failed to do so, pushing small-scale contractors to the brink of financial ruin, he claimed.

Adding a fresh layer to the conflict, the Association's general secretary G M Nandakumar alleged that the Urban Development Department is being run by "middlemen" operating from private offices.

"Tender approvals and fund releases are being managed by a nexus of intermediaries. Corruption has not only persisted but has doubled in some sectors," he charged.

The KSCA has demanded an official meeting with the chief minister within the next few days to fix a timeline for the phased release of payments, failing which they plan to halt all ongoing public works across the state.

Minister seeks evidence

In a sharp rebuttal to the Karnataka State Contractors' Association (KSCA), Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh dismissed the allegations of corruption and the "middlemen culture" as baseless, challenging the Association to provide evidence instead of "shooting in the dark."

Speaking to the media, the minister reacted strongly to the claims made by KSCA President R Manjunath, stating that the tender process is governed by the Transparency Act, leaving no room for ministerial or official interference. "The law dictates who is eligible based on the lowest bid, technical capacity, and machinery."

"Whether a project is in Hebbal or Mysuru, it goes to the most qualified bidder. If they have specific evidence of middlemen or corruption, let them bring it forward instead of making habitual allegations," Suresh said.

The minister revealed that the Finance Department has already been consulted regarding the release of funds.

He specifically noted that a significant portion of the grievances pertains to work commissioned during the previous BJP regime under the AMRUT-1 scheme.

"There is a balance of roughly Rs 500 crore. The Finance Department has agreed to release Rs 200 to Rs 300 crore immediately following the current Assembly session. We will ensure payments are made strictly according to seniority," the minister assured.

Addressing the contractors' opposition to "package tenders" where multiple small projects are clubbed into one large contract, the minister defended the administration's efficiency. He argued that it is practically impossible to float 1,500 individual tenders for 1,500 small works.

"The administrative and advertising costs alone would be astronomical."

"We package these works by constituency or city corporation to streamline the process. Officials award them to whoever meets the eligibility criteria," he said, labelling the association's protests as "politically motivated or uninformed."

'Biggest' seizure: Govt official found with Rs 26.5-cr assets

BENGALURU, DHNS: A Forest Department official was found to possess assets worth Rs 26.55 crore during raids conducted by the Karnataka Lokayukta police on Thursday, officials said, marking the largest seizure from a government officer in recent years.

Tejesh Kumar N, an assistant commissioner who was recently transferred to Shivamogga as manager but is yet to report for duty, owns 14 acres of farmland, eight houses and four sites - all valued at Rs 25.63 crore - as well as Rs 92 lakh worth of personal vehicles, according to the Lokayukta police.

The Lokayukta police searched five locations on Thursday, including his residences, office and the homes of his relatives, uncovering what officials described as the largest seizure of disproportionate assets from a single government official.

"More disproportionate assets are likely to surface. As the accused is a senior officer, the raids only focused on him this time," a source in the Lokayukta police said.

A case has been registered against him at the Lokayukta police station, Bengaluru.

Former excise officer convicted in DA case, sentenced to 3-yr SI

BENGALURU, DHNS: A Bengaluru court has convicted former deputy commissioner of excise, Chikkaballapura district, S Srinivasa Murthy in a disproportionate assets (DA) case and sentenced him to three years of simple imprisonment (SI). The court has also slapped a fined of Rs 1,34,18,645.

77th Additional City Civil and Sessions Court Judge Prakash Nayak, who conducted the trial, found Murthy guilty and pronounced the sentence.

The order also stated that in default of payment of the fine, the convict would serve an additional 1 year of simple imprisonment.

The Lokayukta police had submitted a chargesheet against the officer after he was found to possess assets disproportionate to his known sources of income in his name and in the names of his family members during the check period from October 26, 1978, to September 25, 2014.

The Lokayukta police, upon investigation, confirmed that the accused possessed illegal assets worth Rs 1,22,00,310. The disproportionate assets were discovered during a raid in 2014.

The accused official was charged under relevant sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Anantha Subbarao was 'committed secularist', 'voice of transport workers': CM

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday recalled deceased communist veteran H V Anantha Subbarao as a "committed secularist" and the voice of workers in several movements.

Speaking to reporters after paying his last respects to the veteran, Siddaramaiah said: "Comrade Anantha Subbarao was active in several movements as the voice of the workers... He was a committed secularist and a Communist Party of India (CPI) leader. I have known him ever since I was the transport minister and had good relations with him."

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah pays his last respects to veteran communist and trade union leader H V Anantha Subbarao, in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Ministers Ramalinga Reddy, Santosh Lad also paid their respects, while thousands of workers waited in long queues to pay tributes to the departed leader. Prof Babu Mathew, who succeeded Rao as the state secretary of the AITUC - affiliated to CPI - recalled Rao as among the "last great trade union leaders of Karnataka."

"He built the KSRTC union through hard work for four decades. He led an agitation seeking recognition for the KSRTC union. Through his constant effort, the government was forced to recognise the union through a secret ballot."

CPI(M) State Secretary K Prakash felt Rao was one of the very few communist leaders acting as a link between the pre and post-Independence periods. "Comrade Anantha Subbarao was a Brahmin but was a firm opponent of the caste system. His daughter married a Dalit activist. He had foresight about class and social equality."

Spl squad to identify and deport illegal Bangladesh immigrants

BENGALURU, DHNS: Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy assured the Assembly that the government would form a special task force to identify illegal Bangladeshi immigrants and initiate steps to deport them, while arresting agents facilitating their entry. Responding to expelled MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal during a calling attention motion, Reddy said only 370 illegal Bangladeshis had been identified, of whom 213 had already been deported.

Yatnal alleged that Karnataka risked becoming "Like West Bengal, where Hindus are under attack" and claimed over 25 lakh Bangladeshis were residing in the state.

Kogilu evictions were for residents' safety, Govt tells HC

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka government on Thursday told the High Court that the removal of temporary structures at two colonies in Kogilu Layout was carried out purely to protect the health and safety of those living there.

Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty informed a division bench led by Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha that the site is an active solid waste management zone, making habitation dangerous due to toxic exposure and groundwater contamination.

The court was hearing a PIL filed by Zaiba Tabassum and others challenging the demolition drive conducted on December 20, 2025, at Waseem Colony and Fakeer Colony.

Petitioners alleged the action violated Supreme Court guidelines requiring prior notice before demolitions.

In its statement of objections, the state said 167 temporary sheds were cleared and that rehabilitation centres were set up within 0.5 to 5 km to avoid disrupting livelihoods.

However, officials claimed no affected families had shifted despite repeated requests, and that many have re-erected tents at the same hazardous location.

Citing Google Earth images, the government argued there were no structures at the site before 2013, with most settlements emerging after May 2025.

The bench has sought detailed rehabilitation data and responses regarding alleged temporary allotment letters, and adjourned the matter to next week.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby informed that my client has entered into an agreement for purchase of the Immovable Property described in the Schedule hereunder from its owners **MR. SAIF UR REHMAN,** aged about 33 years, Son of Mr. H.S. Abdul Hafeez Sayeed, **MRS. B. N. HASEENA,** aged about 64 years, Wife of Mr. H.S. Abdul Hafeez Sayeed, **MR. HABEEB UR REHMAN,** aged about 43 years, Son of Mr. H.S. Abdul Hafeez Sayeed and **MR. H.S. ABDUL HAFEEZ SAYEED,** aged about 70 years, Son of Late Mr. H.S. Shaik Habeeb, all are residing at Al-Habeeb, Shankar Mutt Road, K.R. Puram, Hassan-573205. Any person/s having any claim/rights/interest over the Schedule Property or any objections for said sale of the property, may file their objections in writing, along with supporting documents viz. Agreements, JDA, GPA, MOU & other contract agreements, addressed to the undersigned **within 7 days** from the date of publication of this Notice, failing which, it shall be construed that there are no claims of any sort over the said property and my client shall be advised to proceed with the purchase.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT Piece & Parcel of Property bearing **E Khata No.1924763538, Property No. 417/1 & 2, (BDA Site No.417), BBMP PID No.68-6-417/1 & 2,** the layout formed by the BDA, situated at **Koramangala Extension, 4th Block, 100 Feet Road,** Bengaluru-560095, presently comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP, now Greater Bangalore Pradikara Ward No.151-Koramangala, measuring **East to West 120 Feet** and **North to South 80 Feet,** totally measuring an extent of 9600 square feet, and bounded on the

East by : Vacant Property,
West by : 100 Feet Road,
North by : Site No.418,
South by : Site No.416.

Mr. K.B. Thippe Swamy, Advocate,
#22, LS-25, 1st Floor, SSB Mattada Complex, Tank Bund Road, Blr-560009.
Ph: 98867 52289;
e-mail : kbtswamy1996@gmail.com

PROVISION OF IP BASED INTEGRATED PASSENGER INFORMATION SYSTEM

E-Tender Notice No. N-2025-26-TSK-NIT-34; Dated: 23-01-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **SN. 1**; **E-Tender No.:** N-2025-26-TSK-T-34. **Brief Description of Work:** Provision of IP Based Integrated passenger information system at Dibrugarh and Furkating Jn. station of Tinsukia Division. Tender Value: ₹3,76,75,973.67; Earnest Money: ₹3,38,400.00; E-tender will be **closed** at 15:00 hrs. on 16-02-2026 and **Opened** after 15:00 hrs. on 16-02-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in.**

DRM (S&T), Tinsukia
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 222-S/1/W-II, dated 27.01.2026. Following e-tenders are invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 for the following works : **Tender No.: TN-175-25-26. Name of the Work :** RCC Jacketing work and provision of PSC slab conversion of Br. No. 113 (Up line) in Ranaghat-Gede section and Br. No. 84-T (single line) in Bangaon-Petropole of Sealdah Division. **Tender Value :** Rs. 5,10,05,867.71. **EMD:** Rs. 4,05,000/-. **Completion period for the work :** 12 months. **Date & time of closing of tenders :** 20.02.2026 at 15.00 hrs. **Date & time of opening of tender:** 20.02.2026 at 15.30 hrs. The tender document and other details are available at **www.ireps.gov.in** The bidding is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. (SDAH-367/2025-26)

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway
@easternrailwayheadquarter

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender is invited by the Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Diesel Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode-638002 for the following work:

Sl No	Description	Description
1	Tender Notice Number and date	Tender No SA-M-DSL-ED-OT-25-26-06 dated. 27/01/2026.
2	Name of work	Repair/Rehabilitation of Centre Pivot assembly for Electric locomotives
3	Estimate Value	₹. 24,96,000/-
4	Tender Closing date and Time	20/02/2026 @ 15:00 Hrs.
5	Web address	**http://www.ireps.gov.in**

For Details about scope of work, terms and conditions, approximate value of tender, location and other documents, please refer website portal **www.ireps.gov.in**. It is the Responsibility of the tenderer to check in any corrigendum is issued for any changes please visit the site **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Rolling Stock), Loco Shed, Erode

e-AUCTION NOTICE FOR LEASING OF SLR/LVPH

e-Auction Notice No. LEASE-KGP-26-02 Date : 28.01.2026

For and on behalf of the President, Union of India, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur Division, South Eastern Railway invites e-Auction for leasing of SLR/LVPHs for a period of 03 (three) years for transportation of parcels in the trains which are notified in the **https://www.ireps.gov.in/** website.

Category	Catalogue No.	Date of e-Auction	Auction Start Time	Auction Closing time
Parcel	LEASE-KGP-26-02	10.02.2026	11:00 hrs.	17:10 hrs.

Interested parties and contractors to take note of this and go through the website as mentioned above for details of the trains and related information about the e-Auction notice. For enquiries/clarifications, if any, please contact the office of the undersigned.

(PR-1114) **Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur**

South Eastern Railway
We serve with a smile

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our Client intends to purchase the immovable property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder and referred to herein as "**Schedule Property**" from its present owners, **Mr. Narayana Reddy**, aged about 57 years, son of Late Munaiah (a.k.a. Muniyappa / Munireddy), residing at #62, Kommasandra, Bengaluru - 562 125 and **Ms. Prapulla K N**, aged about 26 years, daughter of Mr. Narayana Reddy, residing at #45, Sri Chaitanya Techno School, Lakshminarayapura, Huskur, Bengaluru - 560 099 (hereinafter referred to as "**Owners**"), who have represented to our Client that they are the sole and absolute owners of the Schedule Property having unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that if any person/s, entity, company, firm, organisation, institution (corporate or otherwise), including Government agency, statutory authority, developmental body:

(I) has initiated any claims, notifications, or proceedings or proposes to initiate any claims, notifications, or proceedings in relation to change in zoning/land use, road expansion and/or land acquisition; and/or

(ii) claims any right, title, interest, pending litigation, tenancy, mortgage, charge, lien or demand or any other interest of whatsoever nature in or upon the Schedule Property;

the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details and documents in support of such claim, notification or proceeding within **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of this Notice, failing which, our Client would be at liberty to proceed to enter into and complete the intended transaction relating to acquisition of the Schedule Property. Any objections and/or claims received after the expiry of the period mentioned above shall neither be entertained nor be binding on our Client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural land bearing survey number 157/5, measuring 27 guntas, situated at Kommasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru and bounded on the:

East by : Land of Head Start Educational Trust;
West by : Land of Gopalareddy;
North by : Land of Head Start Educational Trust; and
South by: Land of Head Start Educational Trust.

Dated : 30-01-2026.
Place : Bengaluru

Mahesh Madan Bhat, Advocate
MMB Legal
634, 2nd Floor, 5th Cross
4th Block, Koramangala
Bengaluru – 560 034.
P.(s): 91–80 –4128 4444/4128 5555.
E-mail: mahesh@mmblegal.in

Has your bank account become inoperative?
KYC DONE
Contact the bank
Update your KYC to activate the account.
» Bank account becomes inoperative if there is no transaction for more than two years.
» Get your KYC updated at any branch of your bank or through video KYC.
RBI Kehta Hai...
Jaankaar Baniye, Satark Rahiye!
For more details, give a missed call to 14440 or visit https://rbikehtahai.rbi.org.in/ia
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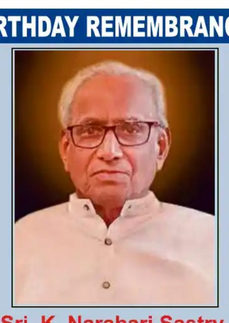
BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Sri. K. Narahari Sastry
30.01.1933 - 10.06.2021
(Coffee Board)
Founder Director Suthramela Puppeteers
You are in our thoughts every single day.
We miss you, cherish the memories.
More so today. Lots of Love from all of us.
You will remain in our hearts forever.
Fondly remembered by your family
"Suthramela"
9845123205, 9901491118

Government plans to roll out Rohith Vemula Bill

BENGALURU, DHNS: As part of its efforts to rid college campuses of caste-based discrimination, the government is planning to roll out Rohith Vemula Bill, announced Minister for Higher Education Dr M C Sudhakar on Thursday.

The Supreme Court had recently issued a stay on the new rules drafted by the University Grants Commission with the aim of ushering in 'equity' on college campuses. The new rules were challenged by those who argued that it could potentially result in students admitted under General Category being discriminated against. Yet another petition took issue with the clause on 'caste-based discrimination', arguing that caste should not feature in the provision. Affirming government's intention to fight discrimination on campuses, Sudhakar said, "We are in the process of bringing an Act in Vemula's name. But will wait for detailed copy of SC's order and consider directions issued by apex court. We will also ensure that General Category students are protected."

Although the bill was to be tabled in Winter Session, the Higher Education Department, which sought opinion of legal experts, deferred it to make some changes.

DH DECCAN HERALD Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements

Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
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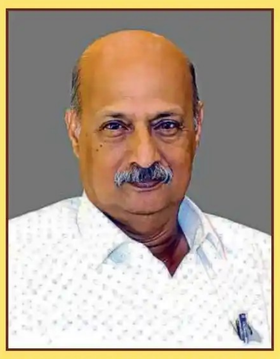
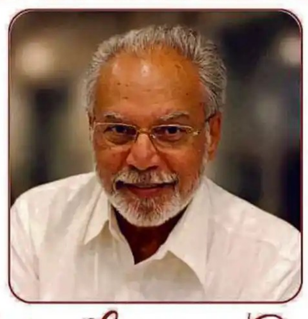
BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
WE MISS YOU



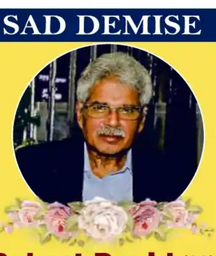
Shri D.S. RAJI WADIYAR
DOB: 30-01-1959 - DOD: 13-05-2025
You are always alive in our minds and heart. We feel your presence every moment in our life day and night.
By Shiva Shankar
Raju Wadiyar Family
Members

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Justin Lawrence Camoens
Our beloved brother Justin Lawrence Camoens passed away on Monday, 26th January 2026.
Viewing: Sun, 1 Feb, 2026, 1-2pm, Ascension Church, D'Costa Square, Bangalore - 84; Funeral follows.
"Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him."
~ In grief, The Camoens Family ~

SAD DEMISE



Robert David (69)
(DOB: 09.04.1956 - DOD: 29.01.2026)
Resident of Kammanahalli, Beloved husband of June and loving father of Rhea & Natasha, passed away on 29.01.2026.
Mass @ Holy Ghost Church, Richard's Park, Bangalore
On 30.01.26 Approx mass time: 2pm.
Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him.

LOOKING TO BUILD, BUY OR SELL A PROPERTY
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Opposition walks out as Cong govt defends 'Sanghappa' ad

Such ads will fuel tensions in Centre-state relations: BJP

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Opposition BJP and JD(S) walked out of the Legislative Assembly on Thursday in protest after the Congress government justified issuing newspaper advertisements criticising the new Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act at taxpayers' expense.

Newspapers ON Thursday carried a full-page advertisement issued by the rural development & panchayat raj (RDPR) department featuring Mahatma Gandhi in conversation with a fictional character named 'Sanghappa', a likely pun on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

The advertisement dubbed the VB-G RAM (G) Act a "death knell" for rural employment and slammed the union government for "tax terrorism" against Karnataka. "The government runs on taxpayer money. If it were a Congress party advertisement, then fine. But this is an advertisement from the RDPR department against a federal law," senior BJP lawmaker S Suresh Kumar said.

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka called the advertisement "illegal" and cited a Supreme Court order by (former Chief Justice) Ranjan Gogoi: "Advertisements shouldn't promote the political interest of the ruling party."

The Opposition members said such ads would fuel tensions in the Centre-State ties. "Tomorrow, a state law will come. There are BJP-backed panchayats and city municipal councils. Will you allow them to issue an advertisement against a state law?" BJP's V Sunil Kumar asked. "In a federal structure, states must accept central laws."

Disrespect to Gandhi

Ashoka argued that the ad disrespected Gandhi. "If you truly wanted to pay homage to Gandhi, you could've issued an advertisement asking citizens not to drink liquor. Instead, you're opening new liquor stores," he said.

RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge vehemently defended the advertisement. "We'll issue more ads. It's our right; it's our taxpayers' money, and our people are facing injustice," he said.

Priyank pointed out that the BJP government in Gujarat issued an advertisement wishing Prime Minister Narendra Modi a happy birthday. "During Covid, the B S Yediyurappa government issued an advertisement thanking Modi for vaccines," he said.

The minister said the new law was enacted by violating Article 258 of the Constitution, as states weren't consulted.

"If a Kannadiga pays Rs 100 to the Centre, then Rs 13 comes back. But the return is double for Uttar Pradesh, triple for Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. Are we wrong to ask Rs 25-30 in return to spend on infrastructure and creating jobs?" Priyank argued.

Karnataka is yet to receive Rs 2,500 crore to gram panchayats under the 15th Finance Commission, Priyank said. "Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the state has covered for the Centre by paying Rs 15,000 crore. If this isn't tax terrorism, then what is?"

The state is number one in terms of income tax, foreign investments, IT exports and property tax, Priyank said. "What's wrong if we ask for a little more?"

We've convinced people in our own way, says DKS on ads

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS: Defending the state government's advertisements criticising the Centre for the withdrawal of MGNREGA, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Thursday said that the Congress would lead the nation-wide fight demanding the reinstatement of the employment guarantee scheme.

"Through the advertisements, we have convinced the people, in our own way, that the Centre, by withdrawing MGNREGA, is meting out injustice to the rural people. What is wrong with that?" asked Shivakumar.

Under MGNREGA, any villager could approach the local Gram Panchayat and secure a job, pointed out the Deputy CM.

"The GP members decided on the nature of work to be undertaken in the villages. The new Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act takes away the GP's powers, with all the power being vested with the Centre. We have educated the people about this through the advertisements," said Shivakumar.

Dismissing BJP MLA Sunil Kumar's suggestion that Yathindra Siddaramaiah's interference in his department impelled Energy Minister K J George to resign, Shivakumar said, "I have learnt about this only through the media. It is possible that when workers approached Yathindra seeking help, he may have appealed to officials of various departments. What is wrong with that?"

S SURESH KUMAR
BJP MLA

"The government runs on taxpayer money. If it were a Congress party advertisement, then fine. But this is an advertisement from the RDPR department against a federal law.

PRIYANK KHARGE
RDPR Minister

"We'll issue more ads. It's our right; it's our taxpayers' money, and our people are facing injustice.

One lakh title deeds this year, says KBG

▸ **BENGALURU, DHNS:** The state government is planning to issue title deeds to one lakh people this year, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said on Thursday. Last year, the government gave 1.11 lakh title deeds at an event in Hospet.

"In 2026, our target is to issue one lakh title deeds, which will cover residents who remain undocumented for various reasons. On February 13, at an event in Haveri, we want to give one lakh title deeds. So far, 86,000 title deeds are ready," Gowda said at a review meeting with officials.

Council descends into chaos for third day in a row

BENGALURU, DHNS: No business was conducted in the Legislative Council for the third day in a row with opposition members refusing to let up on their demand for action against Congress MLCs who purportedly insulted Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot.

No sooner had the session started than the BJP and JD(S) MLCs began calling for action to be initiated against Congress MLC B K Hariprasad, whom they accused of insulting the Governor. When BJP member D S Arun accused Hariprasad of trying to gherao the Governor, besides gesturing at him with his hand, the latter replied, "Is it possible to gesture with your leg?" The remark only served to incense the opposition members, who demanded an apology from Hariprasad. When his efforts to restore order failed, Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti was forced to adjourn the House.

It took the better part of three hours for the opposition and ruling party members to reconcile with each other. When the session resumed, Horatti called on Hariprasad to deliver a heartfelt address, besides appealing to all Council members to stay on friendly terms with one another.

"If my words have hurt anybody, I deeply regret them," said Hariprasad.

SESSION SNIPPETS

Assembly session extended up to February 4

▸ **BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Karnataka Assembly session will be extended up to February 4, Speaker U T Khader announced on Thursday.

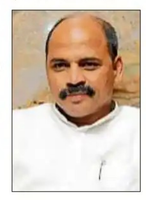
The session, which started January 22, was scheduled to conclude on January 31. The decision to extend the session was made at the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting. There will be no sitting on January 31.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will reply to the discussion on the Governor's address on February 2.

On February 3 and 4, the House will debate the repealing of MGNREGA.

Mega job fair for disabled persons for first time: Patil

▸ **BENGALURU, DHNS:** Karnataka will organise an exclusive job fair for persons with disabilities for the first time, Skill Development Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil said in the Assembly on Thursday.



Dr Sharan Prakash Patil

The event will be held within the next three months at the Kanteerava Stadium. Patil said this while replying to a question by Byndoor BJP MLA Gururaj Shetty Gantihole.

Reservation for persons with disabilities in training programmes has been enhanced from 3% to 5%, Patil said. From 2017–18 to 2024–25, a total of 540 registered candidates with disabilities underwent training.

Of them, 83 candidates found jobs. In 2026-27, 1,000 candidates will be provided skill training, tool kits and employment opportunities at a total cost of Rs 3 crore, the minister said.

Anti-development, corruption-centric Congress govt, alleges Sunil Kumar

'It is an out-of-track and helpless leadership'

BENGALURU, DHNS

BJP legislator V Sunil Kumar on Thursday said the Congress government had "derailed from governance" and was attempting to run the administration through publicity.

"You are trying to run the government through advertisements. It is an out-of-track and helpless leadership," Kumar said during a discussion on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address.

Accusing the state government of "misgovernance, selective law enforcement and rampant corruption," the Karkala MLA questioned what development had been achieved in the last two-and-a-half years and said even the ruling party MLAs were unhappy as they are pleading with the CM for funds.

"Not a single kilometre of rural roads was built, no connection given to new borewells. Gram panchayats have not been given grants nor e-khata clearances. It is an anti-development government," he said. On law and order, Kumar cited a series of incidents to question the government's handling of policing.

Karkala BJP MLA V Sunil Kumar speaks in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

Referring to the Kalaburagi episode where LOP in Council was locked up and vehicles were allegedly smeared with black paint, he said, "Can you still claim there is sound law and order in place? A Congress leader threatened a municipal commissioner in Shidlaghatta, but he was arrested after 14 days. Now, what happens to the morale of officers?"

He slammed the Congress for making "baseless allegations" of corruption against the previous BJP government following a press meet by contractors. "Today, the same contractors say there is a '65% commission' government," he said.

"Economic advisor to the chief minister flagged high corruption in mines and geology, B R Patil alleged bribery in house allotments, wine merchants complained of liquor license bribes, and officers committed suicide due to corruption menace. Is it people-centric or corruption-centric government?" he asked.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE THE HON'BLE XXIV ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE, (CCH-6)
P & SC NO. 585/2025
BETWEEN:
NIMAI ARVIND NAGARKAR, S/o Late Arvind Shantram Nagarkar, Aged about 55 years, residing at No.53, 18th Cross Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore -560 055. ...PETITIONER
AND: -NIL- ...RESPONDENT
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the above named filed this petition under Sec.372 of the Indian Succession Act for the grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the Petitioner, in respect of schedule below. The below mentioned schedule has held by Late Sri. Arvind Shantaram Nagarkar, father of Petitioner herein who expired on 27.10.2019.
Interest parties are hereby called upon to appear before this court in person or by pleader duly instructed on **26.02.2026 at 11 am.** Inform to show cause against the Petitioners failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declared as Ex-parte
SCHEDULE
All the proceeds of PPF deposit in A/c No. 10323708831 at State Bank of India, Kumara Park Branch, Bengaluru., Deposited/ credited by late Sri. Arvind Shantaram Nagarkar Rs.11,32,874/- (Indian Rupees Eleven Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Four only) as on date along with up to date accrued interest and all proceeds at the said account.
Given under my hand & seal of the court this 27th day of January 2026. **By Order of the Court**
Sd/- **Senior Sheristedar**
City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Address for Service:
Reshma Pai / Mahesh. M, Advocates,
Sunshine Silicon City Apartment, Victoria view Layout, Borewell Road,White field, Bangalore-560 066.

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PERSONAL
Change of Name
I,DR.PUSHPALATHA L, aged about 45 years,D/o. MG Lakshmi Narasimhaiah, R/a. No.4021,6th Cross, Near Uco Bank KR Road Branch,7th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560011. Have Changed my Name DR.PUSHPALATHA L to DR.ANAGHA GOWDA vide affidavit Dated:27.01.2026 before Notary Ravi Kumar.V, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Raghavendra Mysore Jayaprakash Narayan,** residing Deepsville, 4th Main, 1st Cross, Sharadhadevi Nagar, Tumakuru Dist-572103, have changed my name to **M J RAGHAVENDRA LAD** vide affidavit dated 29-01-2026 before notary B.V. Nagabhushana, Bengaluru.

I, SWATHI ROHITH SHETTY D/o KARUNAKAR SHETTY K have changed my name to SWATHI K SHETTY vide affidavit dated: 29/1/2026 Before Notary Before Notary Shreeshail B.Gobbani Bangalore

I, SOWMYA_P DESHPANDE DOB:21.06.1995 W/o.Srinath Waiker R/a#B009, Devagiri Emeralds,4th Main Road,Opposite Happy Valley School, Happy`Valley Layout Uttarahalli, Bengaluru 560061,Have Changed my`Name to SOWMYA_S WAIKER vide`affidavit Dated:29.1.2026 before`Notary B.GopalaKrishna Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANITHA BALAKRISHNAN,** residing at # 131-G, 4th Cross, 2nd Main, S.T. Bed, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560034, have changed my name to **ANITHA C** vide affidavit dated 29-01-2026 before notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Henceforth I shall be called as **ANITHA C** only

I, DASARATHA .M. R/a, #.1375, Sri Kodilingeshwara Nilaya, Behind Begur Government High School, Nanjundaiah layout, Devarachikkanahalli Road, Begur, Bangalore -560068, Have Changed My Name From DASARATHA. M To DASHARATHA .M vide affidavit dated 28/01/2026 before notary K.V. Mani, Bangalore.

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CM Siddaramaiah and DCM D K Shivakumar

Don't give up CM's chair to DKS, Reddy urges Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU, DHNS: Gangavathi BJP MLA G Janardhana Reddy on Thursday urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to "continue in office" and not allow Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar to become the chief minister, sharply criticising the latter's conduct after the Ballari violence.

Participating in the debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address, Reddy expressed his regards for Siddaramaiah. "You (Siddaramaiah) must continue as the chief minister, and maintain law and order in the state," he urged.

Reddy took exception to Shivakumar's conduct vis-à-vis the violence that erupted in Ballari on New Year's Day.

"When journalists informed Shivakumar that I had sought protection, he suggested that I go to Iran or the United States of America, or enlist BJP workers for my protection. He also asked whether I had been hit by a bullet in the head or heart," said Reddy, who opined that Shivakumar's remarks were unbecoming of a deputy chief minister.

The CM could entrust the probe into the Ballari violence to a sitting judge if he did not trust the CBI, suggested Reddy. Pointing to the need for efficient police officers in Ballari, he said, "Post good IPS officers. Ballari needs peace and development."

Govt staff to wear Khadi on all first Saturdays

BENGALURU, DHNS: The officers and employees of Government of Karnataka will wear Khadi clothes to office on the first Saturday of every month as part of a state-level initiative to promote the indigenous fabric and related products.

The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh and attended by the representatives of various government departments, boards, corporations and employee associations.

The initiative will be formally launched on the Government Employees' Day on April 21, 2026.

The move is aimed at increasing the visibility and use of Khadi among public servants and strengthening support for the Khadi and Village Industries sector. An additional 5% discount will be extended over and above the existing concessions available to employees to help purchase Khadi garments from government-run Khadi and Village Industries Board outlets, according to a press release.

While the suggested attire for male employees is Khadi shirts, trousers, overcoats and other formal wear, female employees may wear Khadi or Khadi silk sarees, chudidars and other formal outfits. The state government is expected to issue an official circular detailing the implementation.

The meeting also discussed various employee welfare measures alongside the promotion of Khadi.

A proposal to establish a Government Employees' Canteen through Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL), on the lines of defence canteens, was mooted to supply essential commodities and daily-use goods at concessional rates. The scheme is likely to be included in the upcoming State Budget (2026-27). Also, the additional 5% special discount currently provided by the Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation (KSIC) to IAS officers for the purchase of silk sarees and fabrics will be extended to all government officers and employees.

Smart cities failed to mobilise financial resources: CAG report

7 cities in state chosen for the Smart City Mission

BENGALURU, DHNS

Smart cities failed to mobilise financial resources and were mainly dependent on mission grants, and four of the seven districts in Karnataka under the project had not maintained the minimum requirement of Rs 200 crore, a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has found.

The Union government launched the Smart City Mission (SCM) on June 25, 2015, to achieve "comprehensive development" of the physical, institutional, social and economic infrastructure of 100 cities. In Karnataka, seven districts — Bengaluru, Belagavi, Davangere, Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Shivamogga and Tumakuru — were chosen for SCM.

The CAG report on 'Implementation of Smart City Mission' has recommended that the smart cities need to tap resources other than government grants, like municipal bonds, pooled finance mechanism, etc, for long-term sustainability of the projects.

"Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) did not take any action to mobilise additional resources through the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and leverage borrowings from financial institutions. The state government accepted that smart cities have not proposed mobilisation of funds under NIIF, and it will be implemented in future projects," the report notes.

As per the data in the report, the seven districts received a total of Rs 6,781 crore-worth of funds (Rs 3,354.50 crore from GOI and Rs 3,426.5 crore from the Karnataka government). Of this, Rs 5,788 crore has been spent.

While the SCP of the cities aimed to develop smart roads (a road designed to include smooth vehicular flow, prioritise pedestrian movement, integrated essential utilities) project as per the Tender SURE guidelines, cities other than Bengaluru did not provide for certain utility ducts, which resulted in frequent digging up of smart roads for laying/maintenance of utility lines.

The report flagged that the Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation (KUIDFC), which is the state-level nodal agency, spent Rs 75 lakh towards activities "not pertaining" to the smart city project.

"The integration of the City Surveillance System implemented by the police and the Traffic Department was yet to be carried out despite several correspondence made with the police department," the report said.

"Integration of disaster management systems, environmental sensors, energy meters, digital display boards and smart health kiosk were yet to be accomplished."

'Show me a single BJP-ruled city': Minister slams Pai over call for pvt buses in B'luru

Invites former Infy CFO for a debate with BMTC MD

BENGALURU, DHNS

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Thursday reacted sharply to Mohandas Pai's suggestion to allow private city bus operations in Bengaluru.

He even invited the former Infosys CFO to a face-to-face debate with the managing director of the state-run Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC).

"Are you ready to step up, or will you just keep tweeting? Your view is not just biased—it is fundamentally dogmatic," the minister wrote on X.

The intense debate flared up after *DH* reported that the Centre had awarded the first contract under the PM E-Drive Scheme for the deployment of 1,750 electric buses in Bengaluru. The BMTC will get a total of 4,500 buses under the scheme and aims to expand its fleet to 10,000 in two years.

Writing on X, urbanist Ashwin Mahesh noted that Bengaluru's current bus deficit is over 10,000 and will reach 11,000 in two years.

R Ramalinga Reddy

Adding over 4,000 buses is not even halfway there. Judging by past announcements and the pace of delivery, he doubted that the buses would be delivered in two years. He also highlighted that the BMTC lacks a data-driven system for assigning new buses to meet mobility needs and that its route rationalisation remains incomplete.

Quote-tweeting Mahesh's post, Pai tagged the transport minister, saying "you have thoroughly failed to ensure adequate public transport", and urged the state government to allow private city bus services.

In his counter, Reddy strongly defended the government-run bus corporation.

Unlike private players, he noted, 30% of government bus routes operate at a loss for students and rural citizens in remote villages, 30% operate at break-even, and 98% of villages across the state have bus connectivity.

"Karnataka operates 26,054 buses; in Bengaluru alone, we serve nearly 45 lakh commuters daily. With a fleet of 7,108 buses—including 1,686 electric buses—we cover over 13 lakh km and 66,000 trips every day, the highest in India. Show me a single BJP-ruled city or state, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat, that matches this scale and efficiency."

"In just the last 2 years, we inducted 5,800+ new buses. By March 2026, another 2,000+ buses will be on the roads. During the BJP tenure (2019–2023), when bus inductions were frozen and corporations were left to rot, why didn't you raise a single question? Why does your "corporate concern" only wake up when a pro-people government is performing? Private operators shut down the moment profits dip. How would that help a common man in Bengaluru who earns a daily wage?" he wrote.

DG&IGP orders granting leaves for birthdays, wedding anniversaries

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a move set to bolster the morale of the state police, DG&IGP M A Saleem has directed his unit heads to grant leaves to the personnel on their birthdays and wedding anniversaries.

Saleem, in the circular issued on Thursday, said that celebrating birthdays and wedding anniversaries were important to the personnel who "work hard towards maintaining law and order and safeguarding the public."

"Getting leaves for these special occasions will help them rejuvenate, spend quality time with their family and maintain work-life-balance," Saleem stated in the circular.

Illegal betting: ED attaches Rs 177 cr assets of Cong MLA K C Veerendra

POC in excess of Rs 2.3k crore identified during investigation: Agency

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday said that it has attached Rs 177.3 crore of assets belonging to Congress MLA K C Veerendra 'Puppy' and his associates in connection with the case related to illegal online betting and gambling.

MLA K C Veerendra

The attached properties, include immovable properties like agricultural land and residential sites, along with other movable assets, which have been attached as value of any such property or property derived directly from Proceeds of Crime (POC) generated out of illegal online betting/gambling operations, the ED said.

ED claimed that it has found Veerendra and his associates were the masterminds behind a nationwide illegal online betting network operating through the same modus operandi.

"The investigation has established that the accused generated substantial 'proceeds of crime' by duping the public through these online betting and impersonation scams. In the scheme, unsuspecting players were induced to stake money on rigged illegal gaming websites which were in the nature of online casinos; their deposits (running into crores of rupees in aggregate) were collected via the payment gateways into designated payment aggregator accounts," the agency said.

"The victims were initially shown fake winnings to build trust, and then eventually blocked from withdrawals. Investigation has revealed use of hundreds of mule accounts and several payment gateways for laundering of Proceeds of Crime," the agency added.

Earlier, ED had conducted extensive search and seizure operations across more than 60 premises in several states, during which large quantities of cash, gold bullion, gold and silver jewellery, vehicles, digital devices and incriminating documents were seized.

"ED had also arrested Veerendra under Section 19 of PMLA, and a prosecution complaint has been filed before the Special Court (PMLA). On the basis of material evidence gathered during investigation, ED has provisionally attached assets held directly and indirectly by K C Veerendra, which are reasonably believed to be Proceeds of Crime and properties involved in money laundering.

With this, the ED has attached assets worth more than Rs 320 crore in the present case under the provisions of the PMLA, 2002. Further, during the course of investigation, Proceeds of Crime (POC) exceeding Rs 2,300 crore have been identified so far, which were generated through illegal online betting and gambling activities and subsequently laundering through multiple layers of transactions," the agency said.

Karnataka Forest Department
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS TERRITORIAL SUB DIVISION KALABURAGI
Email ID Address: acfkalaburagit@gmail.com

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DIPR/Kalaburagi/1028/KSMC&A/2025-26

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Sd/- Administrator,
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Online Tenders are invited for the Supply of Printing and Binding Materials. Under the Rate Contract. Estimated total value of the Tender is about **Rs. 96.73 lakhs** & total EMD prescribed is **Rs. 4.84 Lakhs.** Last date for Submission of Tender is on **16.02.2026, 17.30 hrs.** For details please visit Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For any further clarifications the above office may be contacted.

Sd/-
Director

DIPR/CP/AAA/5270/2025-26

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ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸನ್ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಿವಿಧ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆಧ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, PWD ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಐ.ಡಿ.ಪಿ ಅನುದಾನ

1) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54226/50.0ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, 2) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್‌ನಂ. 54227/30.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, 3) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54258/40.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ, 4) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54566/80.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, 5) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54569/50.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ, 6) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54567/45.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–1, 7) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54565/75.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, 8) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54564/30.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ,

ವಾರ್ಡ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಅನುದಾನ

9) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 52688/20.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2ಎ, 10) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54629/7.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2ಎ, 11) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54627/2.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, 12) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54630/35.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, 13) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54626/4.10 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ, 14) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54612/10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ, 15) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54610/10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2ಎ, 16) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54503/10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, 17) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 54603/ 5.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 18) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54391/2.20 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, 19) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54389/10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, 20) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54394/23.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, 21) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54400/16.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, 22) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 50936/48.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ,

15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಅನುದಾನ

23) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54555/150.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, 24) ಜನಗಣತಿ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳ ಕಿಟನ್ನು ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಕುರಿತು.

ಒಟ್ಟು 23 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು **ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.752.30 ಲಕ್ಷ**ಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು ಧಾರವಾಡ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. **ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ :0836–2213838** ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅ.ನಂ. 1 ರಿಂದ 23 ರವರೆಗೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31–1–2026** ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ : 1) ಈ ಮೇಲೆ ವಿವರಿಸಿದ ಅ.ನಂ.24 ರ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ. ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಬೇಕಾದಂತೆ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯ ತುಲನಾತ್ಮಕ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡು ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯನ್ನು ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿದಾರರು/ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಮೂಲ ಧೃಡೀಕೃತ ಶೀಲ್‌ಬಂದ್ ಕೋಟೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 9/2/2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ**ಯೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಧಾರವಾಡ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಗೆ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಿಚಂಚೆ ವಿಳಾಸದ **eedharwad@gmail.com** ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವಂತೆ ಕೋರಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ವಿಳಾಸ **http://www.hdmc.mrc.gov.in/en/tenders, http://hdmc.mrc.gov.in/kn/tenders** ದಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31/1/2026** ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10/2/2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30** ರ ನಂತರ ಹಾಜರಿದ್ದವರ ಸಮ್ಮುಖದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಟೇಶನ್ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಸದರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. **2)** ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಕೋಟೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಮಿಚಂಚೆ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ಕಚೇರಿಗೆ ನಿಗದಿತ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಧೃಡೀಕೃತ ಪ್ರತಿಯ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸದಿದ್ದರೆ ಅಂತಹ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿದಾರರು/ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು ಧಾರವಾಡ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. **3)** ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರು ಸದರ ಸೇವೆಯ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ತಮ್ಮದೇ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಾನಿಕ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಈ ಸೇವೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಭತ್ತೆಗಳು ಅಥವಾ ವೆಚ್ಚಗಳು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ಭರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಈ ಮೇಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ (1 ರಿಂದ 23)

1) ಟೆಂಡರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **19/02/2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04.00 ಗಂಟೆ**
2) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **20/02/2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04.30 ಗಂಟೆ**
3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **24/02/2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04.00 ಗಂಟೆ**

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ,
ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/1163/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ/2025–26

RANI CHANNAMMA UNIVERSITY
Vidyasangama, National Highway – 04, Bhootaramanahatti, Belagavi – 591156 (**NAAC Accredited with B+ Grade - 2021**)
E-mail: registrar@rcub.ac.in, aee@rcub.ac.in **Phone No.:** 0831-2565203/242
Office of the Registrar

Ref: RCU/Belagavi/RO/BS/2025-26/ **Date:28.01.2026**

: Press Note:

Short term Tender Notification

The Registrar, Rani Channamma University Belagavi invites **7** days short term tender for **"Construction of main road, retaining wall and other works in the premises of RCU New campus at Hirebagewadi, Belagavi, Karnataka" (RCUB/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT13/CALL-2)** on **28.01.2026.** Desired eligible Bidder may apply before **05.02.2026 by 4.00 PM** through http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and the estimated amount for the tender work is **Rs. 8.50 Cr. and EMD amount is Rs. 12,75,000/-** and for further information kindly visit University website **www.rcub.ac.in** or the Engineering Division at University.

Sd/-
The Registrar

BESCOM
Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN: U04010KA2002SGC030438)

CORRIGENDUM

Regarding the Tender Notice advertisement released in Kannada Prabha and Deccan Herald Newspapers on 29.11.2025 "For Repairs and Reconditioning of 11KV class single coil/multi coil Conventional(Aluminium wound) and 3,4,5 Star Rated failed Distribution Transformers of various Capacities from 25 to 500 KVA and Conversion of CSP to Conventional bolt & nut type on lumpsum Rate basis (Material, Labour & Salvage) at Transformer repair center in Taluk/Division of BESCOM jurisdiction due to Administration reason the following changes are made

Sl. No.	Enquiry No & date	Taluk / Division	Amount put to tender Rs. In Crs.	Remarks
9	BESCOM/ 2025-26/SE0304	Dodda ballapura	6.08	Cancelled

All other terms and conditions and Calendar of Events of all the enquiries notified on 29.11.2025 remains un-altered.

Sd/- Deputy General Manager (Ele), Operations-1, BESCOM

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

ಕೆಎಮ್‌ಎಫ್ ಡೆಂಪೊ ಡೇರಿ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್., ಅಸಂಗಿ–587311
ತಾ: ರಬಕವಿ–ಬನಹಟ್ಟಿ ಜಿ: ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ. ಫೋ. 9591806252/9591806257

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕೆಎಮ್‌ಎಫ್‌ಡಿಡಿಎಲ್/ಖರೀದಿ/2025–26/2484 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.01.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕೆಎಮ್‌ಎಫ್ ಡೆಂಪೊ ಡೇರಿ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್‌ವು ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರುದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನವುಗಳಿಗೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖೇನ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜುಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಪ್ಲಾಟಫಾರಂ ಅಡಿ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಅಪ್ಲೋಡ ಮಾಡಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ.	ಕೆಲಸದ ವಿವರ	ಅವಧಿ	ಇಎಮ್‌ಡಿ
1	ವಿವಿಧ ಪಾಲಿಗಳ ಖರೀದಿ (ಪ್ಲಾಂಟ ಮತ್ತು ಮಿಸಿನರಿ, ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳು, ಹಾಲಿನ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳು, ಕಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಲು, ಉಗ್ರಾಣದಲ್ಲಿನ ವಸ್ತುಗಳು, ಪ್ಯಾಕಿಂಗ್ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳು, ಇಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಾನಿಕ್ಸ ವಸ್ತುಗಳು, ವಾಹನಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ನಗದು ಪಾಲಿಸಿ, ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ)	1 ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ	ರೂ. 500/–
2	80 ರಿಂದ 120 ಕ್ಕೆಟ್ಸ್ ಐಸ್‌ಕ್ರೀಮ್ ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕಾ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ರೆಫ್ರೀಜರೇಟೆಡ್ ವಾಹನವನ್ನು 2 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು.	2 ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ	ರೂ. 30,000/–

ಪೇಳಾ ಪಟ್ಟಿ.

1) ಟೆಂಡರ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನಲೋಡ ಮಾಡುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.01.2026 ರಿಂದ
2) ಟೆಂಡರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 13.02.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ

ಸಹಿ/– ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti- 586201.
E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com

No: KBJNL/DDA/PB/TND/2025-26/2799 Dated:27.01.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore the undersigned invites tender on Item Rate & Percentage basis from the eligible contractors for the work indents of **Two Cover–** (1) I.No. 2685 – 1972.06 Lakhs (Others) **The contractor can have access and submit e-tender from 29.01.2025 to 16.02.2026 up to 5-00 PM. Pre-Bid Meeting Chief Engineer, KBJNL Dam Zone Almatti For I.No. 2685 is 09.02.2026 Cover-II (Technical Bid) will be opened on 18.02.2026 at 11-00 AM And Financial Bid Will be Opened on 21.02.2026** at the Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2 Almatti-586201. For clarifications office of the undersigned may be contacted during office hours (Phone No. 08426-281027). Further information about electronic tendering can be had from kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/641/ಕೆಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on MP and former PM H D Deve Gowda in New Delhi on Thursday. They discussed several matters of importance. Later, Modi wrote on X, "Had an excellent meeting with Shri HD Deve Gowda Ji. His insights on key issues are noteworthy. Equally admirable is his passion for India's development."

Polls to Apex Bank top post postponed at the last minute

With two contenders in fray opting out, elections called off

BENGALURU, DHNS

The presidential election of the Karnataka State Cooperative Apex Bank was called off on Thursday amid speculation that the Congress high command was not in favour of senior lawmaker and former Cooperation Minister K N Rajanna contesting for the top post.

The election was called off as the two other contenders - BJP leader Belli Prakash and Congress MLC Sharanagouda Patil Bayyapur - have withdrawn their nominations in the last moment.

As there were no candidates in the fray the election was called off.

However, this lead to speculation with Rajanna's supporters alleging involvement of Congress high command. Reacting to speculation that Congress General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala had sent a missive, Rajanna's son MLC Rajendra Rajanna said, "Surjewala doesn't have much knowledge about the cooperative sector."

The sources also said that, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had convinced Belli Prakash and Sharanagouda Bayyapur to withdraw their nominations.

Belli Prakash had contested for presidential position and Sharanagouda for vice-president's post. "As there were no other contenders in the race, they both would have been elected unanimously. Hence they have been convinced to withdraw the nominations," said a source.

Meanwhile, as the Congress party's strategy to elect the Apex Bank president unopposed did not work out on Thursday, by evening the party leaders have drafted a new formula.

As some directors stood in support of Rajanna, while some directors supported Legislative Council member S Ravi.

To avoid conflict between the two groups and to make the unopposed election smooth, a new formula has been derived, restricting those who have already served as president earlier from contesting again.

As per the new formula explained by sources, Rajanna, who has already been Apex Bank president twice, will certainly remain out of the race. Congress sources have revealed that the final luck will be for S Ravi or Shivaram Hebbar.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reacting to it and said, "I was not the one who stopped Apex bank elections, it was the election officer."

Foreigner has no right to insist on a visa or its renewal, says HC

Dismisses writ appeal by two Nigerian nationals

BENGALURU, DHNS

A foreigner has no right to insist on a visa or its renewal, the Karnataka high court has observed in a recent judgement.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha said this while dismissing the writ appeal filed by Obinna Jeremiah Okafor and John Adewagh Vandefan, both Nigerian nationals, challenging the August 14, 2025, order of the single bench.

Obinna Jeremiah Okafor, John Adekwagh and Cyril Udoka Odigbo, who did not prefer appeal, prayed before the single bench that they be released from detention. Obinna and John challenged the single bench order rejecting their petition.

It is stated that while one petitioner is pursuing Bachelor of Commerce at Sree Omkar College of Commerce and Management, Sathanur, Bengaluru, the other had come to India on a student visa to study MSc, Computer Sciences at Karpagam Academy of Higher Education, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. He claimed that he was in the process of shifting to a new institution in Bengaluru and therefore had arrived in the city a few days prior to his arrest.

On December 23, 2024, movement restriction orders were issued against the three and they were sent to Aasare Foundation Trust, Laggere, Bengaluru. The authorities stated that Obinna Jeremiah Okafor was in possession of a fake Tanzanian passport in the name of David Masinde Edgar, with an Indian visa, which was issued to a Sri Lankan national. Though the Anti-Narcotic Wing, Central Crime Branch, Bengaluru, acknowledged that no narcotics were recovered from them, examination of their mobile phones revealed that they contained information concerning the sale of narcotics, it was submitted.

The appellants contended that the action taken by the authorities was in violation of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India. It was further argued that the Movement Restriction order was issued in violation of the principles of natural justice and they could not present their defence. It was submitted that the appellants are bonafide students and have the right to complete the course.

The division bench noted that the union government has the authority to issue an order expelling any foreigner from India. "The foreigner is then required to comply with such an order. It is well settled that the rights under Article 19 (1)(d) and 19(1)(e) of the Constitution of India, which are the right to move freely throughout India and the right to reside and settle in any part of the country, are available only to citizens of India and not to foreigners," the division bench said.

The bench further noted that even if the decision to cancel the visas is faulted on the ground that it violated the principles of procedural fairness, the visas would have expired by efflux of time. "And, a foreigner has no right to insist on a visa or its renewal. The right to decline a grant or extension of a visa is clearly an unfettered sovereign right, and it is not necessary for the State to provide any explanation for denying a visa," the bench said.

Actor Mayur Patel booked for drunk driving after serial accident

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kannada actor Mayur Patel was booked by the Halasuru traffic police on Wednesday night for allegedly driving drunk and causing a series of accidents near the Command Hospital at Domlur.

The incident occurred around midnight near the Command Hospital signal on Old Airport Road. According to the Halasuru Traffic Police, Patel was speeding in his Toyota Fortuner when he lost control and rammed into a line of stationary vehicles at the traffic signal.

The force of the collision damaged at least three vehicles, including two Swift Dzires and a government-registered car.

One of the victims, identified as Srinivas, whose car was significantly damaged, filed a formal complaint. "I was waiting at the signal when a massive thud from behind pushed my car into the one in front. It was chaos," he stated.

Upon receiving a call from the control room, Hoysala patrolling teams rushed to the spot and detained the actor. Patel was escorted to the police station, where a breathalyser test confirmed that his blood alcohol level was well above the legal limit.

Further investigation revealed that the actor's high-end SUV was being driven without a valid insurance policy. The police have since seized the vehicle.

"A case has been registered under relevant sections of the BNS and the Motor Vehicles Act for drunk driving and reckless endangerment. The actor was taken into custody and further legal proceedings are underway," a senior police officer said.

Mayur Patel, known for his roles in films like *Mani*, *Udees* and *Gunna*, and a former contestant on Bigg Boss Kannada, has been largely away from the limelight in recent years.

A screen grab of actor Mayur Patel after the crash, where he was seen offering to pay for the damages.
PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

17th BIFFes kicks off with a call for cinema without borders

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

The 17th edition of the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) commenced on Thursday with a vibrant opening ceremony that balanced cinematic celebration with a strong plea for artistic freedom.

The festival, themed around the poetic lines of Rashtrakavi G S Shivarudrappa "Sthree andare ashte saake?" (Is being called Sthree enough) was officially inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The ceremony was held in the presence of the festival's brand ambassador, actors Prakash Raj and Rukmini Vasanth.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurates the 17th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) at the grand steps of the Vidhana Soudha on Thursday. Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, actor-BIFFes brand ambassador Prakash Raj, Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy president Sadhu Kokila, actor Rukmini Vasanth, Shivaji Nagar MLA Rizwan Arshad are seen. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Films by women

This year's festival is set to be a massive undertaking. Sadhu Kokila, Chairman of the Karnataka Chalanchitra Academy, announced that over 250 films from 65 countries will be screened. Notably, more than 60 films are directed by women, aligning with the festival's central theme.

Siddaramaiah, in his inaugural address, emphasised that cinema must go beyond mere entertainment. "Films must address poverty, inequality, and the struggles of farmers, labourers, and women. By watching international cinema, we understand the politics and social structures of other nations, which is essential for bringing change in our own society," he said.

The CM also reiterated the government's commitment to the industry, mentioning the upcoming Film City in Mysuru, the development of a dedicated OTT platform for Kannada content, and a single-window clearance system for film production permissions to ease the burden on producers.

The evening took a provocative turn when multi-lingual actor and festival ambassador Prakash Raj used the stage to criticise the Central Government's reported decision to deny clearance for Palestinian films at the festival.

Referring to titles like 'All That's Left of You' and 'The Voice of Hind Rajab', Raj urged the State Government to take a stand, drawing parallels to the Kerala International Film Festival. "International festivals are for sharing human experiences and building bonds. If we cannot bring stories of others' pain to our soil, how can we call ourselves a civilised society?" Raj questioned. He recited a poem about the human cost of war, asserting that if the films are not allowed to be screened, he would continue to voice the stories of the marginalised from every platform.

The festival screenings will begin on January 30 and continue until February 6 across venues, including Lulu Mall, the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce, and Suchitra Film Society.

A feast for cinephiles

For the first time, the festival is introducing several public-centric features:

- **Open-air screenings:** A 'Tent Cinema' experience at Lulu Mall every evening at 7 pm.
- **Classic restorations:** Five iconic films of Dr Rajkumar and works of legends like Puttanna Kanagal and Girish Kasaravalli will be screened in 4K and 2K DCP formats.
- **Nostalgia on wheels:** The original bike used in the cult classic Sholay is on display for the public.
- **Wall of honour:** A dedicated space at Lulu Mall to honour legends of Kannada film industry.

COMEDK entrance test to be held on May 9

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Consortium of Medical, Engineering and Dental Colleges of Karnataka (COMEDK) will conduct its entrance exam for the 2026-27 academic year on May 9 (Saturday).

Students appearing for COMEDK-UGET, as the test is called, can seek admission to various engineering courses in more than 150 private unaided colleges across the state. Students from across the country can appear for the test, which is slated to be conducted in 400 centres across 200 cities.

According to COMEDK's estimates, around 1.4 lakh students are expected to appear for the test this year. The application window for the test opens on February 3 and students will have time till March 16 to submit their applications.

Bearing the interests of non-Karnataka students in mind, COMEDK has decided that it will stick to its counselling schedule even if the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) delays the process on its part.

Visit www.Comedk.org for more information on the COMEDK-UGET exam.

George denies reports of quitting...

George, from Page 1

George is the district-in-charge minister.

Chief Minister's Legal Advisor A S Ponnanna said Pandey was given a notice as he had skipped at least two meetings convened by Siddaramaiah.

"The officer responded to the notice that he had to attend other official work," he said. "If George was really upset, how come he attended the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting, the Cabinet meeting and the legislature session?"

Ponnanna also denied having brokered peace between Siddaramaiah and George.

Speaking to reporters later, George specified that there was no interference by Yathindra.

"He is not interfering with my department. He is a good youngster. Why are you trying to unnecessarily bring a bad name to him?" he said.

Meanwhile, former BJP minister M P Renukacharya dubbed Yathindra, an MLC, as "the super CM". He alleged: "Siddaramaiah's son is in total control of the government. There is interference in every department and ministers are fed up."

Yettinahole: CAG flags...

Yettinahole, from Page 1

"...the Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Ltd (VJNL) requires a balance amount of Rs 7,954.63 crore for completion of the project," the CAG said, adding that banks have refused to fund the project further as VJNL was not generating any revenue and depended on government grants for repayment.

The VJNL has proposed availing long-term loans guaranteed by the government. However, the government has not taken any decision.

"As a result, the VJNL faces a shortage of Rs 7,954.63 crore as of March 2024 to complete the project," the audit said. "As such, there is a lack of clarity on the source of funds to finance the balance works of the project."

The project is 'far from completion and intended benefit delivery', the audit found. "...despite a very large expenditure of Rs 15,297 crore over 12 years, the envisaged objective of providing drinking water to Chikballapur and Kolar districts remained unattained," it said.

Due to 'non-synchronisation' of works, assets created at a cost of Rs 2,965.77 crore 'were lying idle and could not be used', the audit found.

According to the CAG, 80% of works (out of 55) were awarded to contractors without evaluating their financial capability and work experience. The audit also found that 29 out of 43 works (67%) costing Rs 14,805.80 crore were awarded to only seven contractors. One contractor got 11 contracts worth Rs 5,215.58 crore. The CAG urged the VJNL to work in a 'mission mode' to stick to the November 2026 deadline to complete the project.

'Capable of dividing society': SC stays new UGC regulations

SC stay, from Page 1

The court opined, if it does not intervene, it will lead to a dangerous impact.

"If we do not intervene, it will lead to a dangerous impact and will divide the society...Prima facie we say that the language of the regulation is vague and experts need to look into for the language to be modulated so that it is not exploited," it said.

The 2026 regulations triggered protests at various places, with student groups and organisations demanding its rollback.

The bench agreed with the contentions of the petitioners that the 2012 regulation spoke of a more widespread and all-inclusive discrimination.

"Why should there be a regression in a protective or ameliorative legislation? The principle of non-regression evolved in environmental law. This also pervades laws, which are protective of social justice and equality. We should not go to a stage where we go to segregated schools, as in the United States, with coloured children, white boys and girls going to another school. The unity of India must be reflected in the educational institution," the bench said.

It also questioned why ragging had been left out of the scope of the regulations, despite being a common form of harassment within educational institutions.

"Why is caste-based discrimination separately defined when the definition of discrimination already takes care of all forms of discriminatory treatment? And why is ragging not addressed at all," the bench asked.

The court tagged the present petitions with the pleas filed in 2019.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appeared on behalf of the Union government.

The court suggested Mehta to think of a committee of some eminent persons to look into the matter.

Senior advocate Indira Jaising, appearing in the 2019 PIL filed by the mothers of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi, which led to the framing of the 2026 Regulations, defended the regulations.

She said the interrelationship between the definition of discrimination and caste-based discrimination requires the court's interpretation. "How these two interrelate with each other, and who has a remedy for grievance and what is the nature of that remedy."

The court clarified that it was not concerned about the general category complainants.

"We are right now concerned about the candidates who are marginalised, that their redressal system should remain in force. That is why we are saying that 2012 regulations will continue till further order," the bench said.

The main grievance of the petitioners in the present pleas was that the UGC adopted a non-inclusionary definition of caste-based discrimination, excluded discrimination against persons belonging to the general category, and created a presumption that only certain sections faced caste-based discrimination.

The new regulations, mandating all higher education institutions to form "equity committees" to look into discrimination complaints, were notified on January 13.

The regulations superseded (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2012.

GDP to grow at 7%...

Econ Survey, from Page 1

Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said higher than anticipated growth in the current financial year is because of sustained domestic reforms and public investment.

"India is indeed an oasis of macro stability in an otherwise turbulent world. Numbers speak for themselves," Nageswaran told reporters.

"If we are able to achieve manufacturing and export competitiveness and pursue further process reforms in the areas of land and cost subsidisation and bring down the cost of manufacturing, the potential 7% growth can even rise to 7.5% and 8% in the next few years," he said.

The Economic Survey, prepared by the Department of Economic Affairs under the supervision of the Chief Economic Adviser, offers the Union government's official assessment of the state of the economy and an outlook for the coming fiscal year.

The report underlined that in 2025-26, heightened uncertainty in global trade and the imposition of high and penal tariffs by the United States created stress for manufacturers, particularly exporters, and affected business confidence. The government responded by using this crisis as an opportunity to push through key measures such as GST rationalisation, faster progress on deregulation and further simplification of compliance requirements across sectors, it said.

"The cumulative impact of policy reforms over recent years appears to have lifted the economy's medium-term growth potential closer to 7%. With domestic drivers playing a dominant role and macroeconomic stability well anchored, the balance of risks around growth remains broadly even," the report said.

The annual Survey report, released ahead of the presentation of the Union Budget, noted that demand-led growth in the economy has unfolded alongside a marked easing of inflation, which has improved real purchasing power and supported consumption.

"The Economic Survey tabled today presents a comprehensive picture of India's Reform Express, reflecting steady progress in a challenging global environment," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on X.

Modi added that the Survey underscores the importance of inclusive development, with focused attention on farmers, MSMEs, youth employment and social welfare.

"Our macroeconomic fundamentals are stronger than ever. We have successfully navigated global headwinds to place India on a high-growth trajectory, improving our potential GDP growth to 7%," Nirmala Sitharaman wrote on X.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over the State.

Forecast Jan 30: Mainly clear sky. Fog/mist likely during early morning hours in some areas.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	29.8	15.4	0.0
Bidar	31.0	16.8	0.0
Vijayapura	31.0	15.8	0.0
Dharwad	30.8	15.0	0.0
Haveri	31.8	15.8	0.0
Kalaburagi	33.0	20.0	0.0
Raichur	31.0	17.0	0.0
COASTAL			
Honnavar	32.3	20.0	0.0
Karwar	32.6	21.8	0.0
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	32.9	22.6	0.0

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	0.0
Bengaluru	29.6	16.2	0.0
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	--	--	--
Chikkamagaluru	--	--	--
Chitradurga	31.5	18.3	0.0
Davangere	32.0	14.5	0.0
Hassan	31.3	12.8	0.0
Mysuru	31.2	18.0	2.0
Madikeri	--	--	--
Kolar	29.8	12.2	0.0
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	20.0	7.0	NIL
Kolkata	27.0	18.0	NIL
Mumbai	28.0	24.0	NA
Chennai	27.0	23.0	NA
Pune	31.0	17.0	NA
Hyderabad	28.0	17.0	NA
Th'puram	33.0	22.0	NIL

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sandal City: P.B No. 5531, Bengaluru - Pune Highway, Bengaluru – 560055. Ph: 080-22164879, 22164886,
Website: **www.mysoresandal.org** E-mail: **ksdl.dgmmtls@gmail.com**
An ISO-9001:2015 & 14001:2015 Company
Date : 29.01.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are invited by **KS&DL** in two cover system through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**) with respect to supply of following Goods/Services/Works.

Sl.No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Tender Quantity	Published date	Last date of submission
1	KSDL/2025-26/SE0190	Engaging of job work for the production and shrink wrapping of various soaps in toilet soap division/ SEP on tonnage basis for the period of one year	Services	28.01.2026	02.03.2026
2	KSDL/2025-26/SE0203	Engaging unskilled labour contracts for the period of one year at R&D Pilot Plant, KS&DL, Bengaluru	Services	28.01.2026	16.02.2026

For any queries contact the undersigned

Sd/- Asst. Gen. Manager (Materials)

ECONOMIC SURVEY: New law is comprehensive overhaul of previous scheme

'Sharp fall in rural job demand led to VB-G RAM G'

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Acknowledging that the MGNREGS once provided wage employment and stabilised rural income, the Economic Survey on Thursday said recent trends revealed a notable decline in work demand under the scheme.

"While the MGNREGS has long served as a critical safety net for rural households, recent trends reveal a notable decline in work demand under the scheme. Person days declined significantly from a pandemic peak of 389.09 crore person days in FY21 to approximately 183.77 crore in FY26 (up to December 31, 2025), representing a decline of more than 53%," it said.

Following the decline, the Central government enacted the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025, or the VB-G RAM G Act, which was a comprehensive statutory overhaul of the earlier scheme, said the survey.

Over the years, the nature of rural employment requirements transformed, emphasising both the programme's achievements and the need to reassess its design and aims, it said.

Over time, increasing incomes, enhanced connectivity, widespread digital adoption, and diversified livelihoods transformed the nature of rural employment requirements, noted the survey, emphasising both the programme's achievements and the need to reassess its design and aims.

Structural issues

The survey also claimed that deeper structural issues persisted in MGNREGS, and monitoring in several states revealed gaps, including work not being done on the ground, expenditure not matching physical progress, the use of machines in labour-intensive work, and frequent bypassing of digital attendance systems.

"The new Act represents a significant upgrade over MGNREGA, fixing structural weaknesses while enhancing employment, transparency, planning, and accountability," it said.

The VB-G RAM G Bill was passed in Parliament in the winter session.

On December 21, President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the Bill, making it an Act, which replaced the rural employment law, MGNREGA, guaranteeing 125 days of wage employment per rural household every financial year.

SURVEY SAYS

- The nature of rural employment requirements transformed over the years
- Reasons included increasing incomes, enhanced connectivity, widespread digital adoption, and diversified livelihoods
- Deeper structural issues persisted in MGNREGS, and monitoring in several states revealed gaps
- These included work not being done on the ground, expenditure not matching physical progress, and frequent bypassing of digital attendance systems
- New act fixes structural weaknesses while enhancing employment, transparency, planning, and accountability

The Economic Survey highlighted a positive trend in female labour force participation in recent years, with unemployment among women also showing a decline.

Data shows strong gains in female labour participation

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's labour market has shown a sharp rise in female workforce participation, according to the latest Economic Survey 2025-26 tabled in Parliament by the Finance Ministry on Thursday.

The survey highlighted a "positive trend in female labour force participation" in recent years. Data showed that the Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) increased from 23.3% in 2017-18 to 41.7% in 2023-24. During the same period, female unemployment also declined, with the rate falling from 5.6% in 2017-18 to 3.2% in 2023-24.

"While this marks a significant improvement, women's overall participation remains lower than that of men," the report said, adding that it will require targeted policy support to sustain and deepen further gains.

The survey showed that overall employment levels and labour force engagement have strengthened, with the Periodic Labour Force Survey showing gains in key indicators across sectors.

A central feature of the survey's labour analysis was the e-Shram portal, designed to register unorganised workers and link them to social security and employment services. As of January 2026, the portal had recorded registrations of over 31 crore unorganised workers, with women constituting around 54% of all registrants.

GENDER GAP

- Female participation rate up from 23.3% in 2017-18 to 41.7% in 2023-24
- Survey notes dual burden of paid & unpaid work borne by women
- Women spend 363 minutes a day on unpaid work; men 123 minutes

The survey underlined the dual burden of paid and unpaid work borne by women as a key constraint on labour market participation. It stated that women spent "about 363 minutes a day on unpaid activities, while men spent around 123 minutes a day on unpaid activities".

"While women participating in paid work contribute a considerable amount of time, their overall participation remains lower than that of men," the report said.

The Economic Survey also flagged the importance of enhancing healthcare access, care infrastructure and workplace support to sustain and deepen women's participation in paid work. Women, it noted, spend significantly more time on unpaid activities compared with men. Such support systems, including "availability of childcare facilities and crèches" and "flexible work policy", were highlighted as necessary complements to broader labour market reforms.

End of naive globalisation, Swadeshi a must: Survey

NEW DELHI, PTI: Focus on Swadeshi is inevitable and necessary in India amid increasing export controls, technology denials by developed nations, and carbon tax mechanisms, which signal the end of globalisation, the Economic Survey said on Thursday.

> India must focus on building enduring national capabilities and economic sovereignty in the face of shrinking space for rules-based trading, anti-immigrant stance, weaponization of energy sources and growing use of export controls in critical sectors.

The pre-Budget document said that India must pursue its near, medium and long-term policy priorities of import substitution, strategic resilience, and strategic indispensability simultaneously.

"There is no time to waste. It is like running a marathon and a sprint at the same time, or having to run a marathon like a sprint!" the Survey said.

It said that a country at present is operating in an environment where access to inputs, technologies, and markets cannot be assumed to be frictionless or permanent.

Export controls, technology denial regimes, carbon border mechanisms, and industrial policy in the West and East alike signal the end of naive globalisation, it said.

"In such circumstances, Swadeshi becomes a defensive as well as offensive policy lever," it said, adding it has become a means to ensure continuity of production in the face of external shocks, and a pathway to build enduring national capabilities that reinforce economic sovereignty.

The policy question is now no longer whether the state should encourage Swadeshi, but how it should do so without undermining efficiency, innovation, or global integration.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has time and again called for adoption of Swadeshi (locally made) by people as well as industry.

The government has taken a series of measures to promote domestic manufacturing to reduce the country's import dependence on countries like China.

The Survey said that not all import substitution is desirable, and not all forms of protection support long-term competitiveness.

The most persistent objection to Swadeshi-oriented policies is not ideological but empirical.

"Swadeshi is a disciplined strategy rather than a blanket doctrine," it said, adding permanent protection is inappropriate in sectors where India is already cost-competitive, where exports are being undertaken at scale, where products serve as general-purpose intermediates across supply chains, or where inputs are critical for labour-intensive industries.

It cautioned against protection that shields poor-quality producers, entrenches incumbency through inverted duty structures, or severs the link between support and innovation, learning, and global integration.

"A disciplined approach to indigenisation requires clarity on when intervention builds long-run capability and when it merely preserves inefficiency," it said.

Climate-resilient push needed to strengthen agriculture

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Pointing out that the agriculture sector faces substantial challenges, the Economic Survey suggested that sustained investment and innovation are key to making the farm sector more resilient and competitive.

Noting that water scarcity remains a pressing concern in regions largely dependent on monsoon rainfall, the survey stated climate change poses a significant challenge, with erratic weather patterns, rising temperatures and extreme events affecting crop yields.

"Promoting climate-resilient agricultural practices—such as drip irrigation and sprinkler systems—as well as diversifying into high-yield varieties and an appropriate crop mix of climate-resilient and drought-resistant crops is critical for sustainability," it said.

Highlighting that agricultural growth will play a major role in India's journey towards becoming a developed country by 2047, the survey recommended that the government deepen ongoing reforms, promote climate-resilient technologies, empower Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), strengthen cooperatives, improve markets and logistics, and enhance risk management.

Agriculture and allied activities contribute nearly one-fifth of India's national income while employing 46.1% of the workforce, underscoring the sector's centrality to the country's growth trajectory. The sector has recorded an average annual growth of around 4.4% over the past five years at constant prices, with livestock and fisheries driving much of the expansion. In the second quarter of 2025-26, agriculture grew 3.5%.

Wangchuk denies remarks about 'overthrowing govt' in SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Maintaining that he has the democratic right to criticise and protest, activist Sonam Wangchuk on Thursday contested before the Supreme Court the allegations that he made a statement to overthrow the government like the Arab Spring.

Wangchuk, who is under preventive detention in the Jodhpur Central Jail, claimed before a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Prasanna B Varale that police have relied on a selective video to mislead the detaining authority.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Wangchuk's wife Gitanjali Angmo, said, "Look at the video. What he says (according to the police) is that if the government of India will not give statehood, he will overthrow the government like the Arab Spring. He does not say so. I will give the transcription (of the video)".

He also denied that he made any derogatory remark against Hindu gods and said some IT cell falsely projected it. "It was meant to say that after liberating Ladakh from Kashmir, the Centre failed to extend its promise of constitutional safeguards under the Sixth Schedule (of the Constitution). He says like Ram got Sita out of the clutches of Ravan and left her in the market, a similar thing the central government did with Ladakh," Sibal said.

Modi's Israel visit: Palestine urges India to mediate

Arab foreign ministers arrive in New Delhi for conclave

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

WEST ASIA PEACE

- Palestinian foreign minister says India is friend to both sides
- Arab League foreign ministers to meet Jaishankar
- India to reiterate support for negotiated two-state solution

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi likely to visit Israel next month, Palestine wants India to play a greater role and help bring peace in West Asia.

"I think India is placed to venture into a role that brings both sides together," Varsen Aghabekian Shahin, the minister of foreign affairs and expatriates of the Palestinian Authority, said in New Delhi. "India is a friend of Israel, and it's a friend of the Palestinians. It is committed to international law. India can play the role of a mediator between Israel and Palestine."

Shahin is in New Delhi to join the foreign ministers of the other member nations of the League of Arab States in a meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday. New Delhi is hosting the meeting 10 years after holding a similar conclave at Manama in 2016.

Modi is likely to visit Tel Aviv on an invitation from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. India is set to reiterate, in its engagement with the League of Arab States, its support for "a negotiated two-state solution" that would see the establishment of a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine within secure and recognised borders, living side by side in peace with Israel.

Shahin's call to New Delhi to act as a mediator between Israel and Palestine came even as India refrained from attending a ceremony in Davos, Switzerland, on January 22 for the signing of the charter of the 'Board of Peace'—a body envisaged by American President Donald Trump as a global peace-making platform, beginning with the Gaza Strip, the site of the Israel-Hamas conflict since October 2023.

India, however, lauded the US at the United Nations Security Council for addressing the "long-standing issue" of conflict in Gaza.

Supreme Court frames 4 key questions while staying UGC regulations

NEW DELHI, DHNS & PTI

While staying the operation of the new UGC regulations against caste-based discrimination on campuses, the Supreme Court on Thursday framed four key questions for consideration of law.

(i) Whether the incorporation of clause 3(c) in the impugned regulations, defining "caste-based discrimination", bears a reasonable and rational nexus to subserve the object and purpose of the 2026 UGC regulations, particularly in light of the fact that no distinct or special procedural mechanism has been prescribed to address caste-based discrimination, as opposed to the exhaustive and inclusive definition of "discrimination" provided under clause 3(e) of the impugned regulations?

(ii) Whether the introduction and operationalisation of "caste-based discrimination" under the impugned regulations would have any bearing on the existing constitutional and statutory sub-classification of the Most Backward Castes within the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBC), and whether the impugned regulations provide adequate and effective protection and safeguards to such Extremely Backward Castes against discrimination and structural disadvantage?

(iii) Whether the inclusion of the expression "segregation" in clause 7(d) of the impugned regulations, in the context of allocation of hostels, classrooms, mentorship groups or similar academic or residential arrangements, albeit on transparent and non-discriminatory criteria, would amount to a "separate yet equal" classification, thereby infringing the constitutional guarantees of equality and fraternity under Articles 14, 15 as well as the Preamble to the Constitution of India?

(iv) Whether the omission of the term "ragging" as a specific form of discrimination in the framework of the impugned regulations, despite its existence in the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2012, constitutes a regressive and exclusionary legislative omission? If so, whether such omission is violative of unequal treatment of victims of discrimination by creating an asymmetry in access to justice and thus, falls foul of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India?

RANJEET RANJAN
Congress leader

"The government should take it to the standing committee.... It is the government's failure that it could not define it properly. The government should not bring a law that creates differences among students. The protests happened because the government could not take students into confidence

GIRIRAJ SINGH
Union Minister

"Heartfelt gratitude to the Supreme Court for staying the UGC regulations that were dividing Sanatan Dharma. This decision is significant in protecting India's cultural unity and Sanatan values. The Modi govt is known for its commitment to 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' and the unbreakable unity of Sanatan Dharma.

MK STALIN
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

"As seen during the implementation of reservations based on the Mandal Commission recommendations, the present UGC rollback backlash is driven by the same regressive mindset. The Centre must not allow such pressure to dilute these regulations or their core objectives.

SC to EC: Display SIR discrepancy list locally

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Thursday told the Election Commission to display the names of those on the "logical discrepancies" list at gram panchayat bhavans and block offices, where documents and objections will also be submitted, during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in various states.

A bench asked the poll panel to put out the names of electors at local level as senior advocates Kapil Sibal, Amit Anand Tiwari and lawyer Vivek Singh, on behalf of the ruling DMK, contended that the electors, who have been put in the logical discrepancies list, should be given adequate time and opportunity to claim inclusion in the electoral rolls in poll-bound Tamil Nadu.

In a related development, the SC reserved its verdict on a batch of pleas, including one filed by the NGO Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), challenging the SIR in Bihar.

Bail denied to ex-councillor, 2 others in Delhi riots case

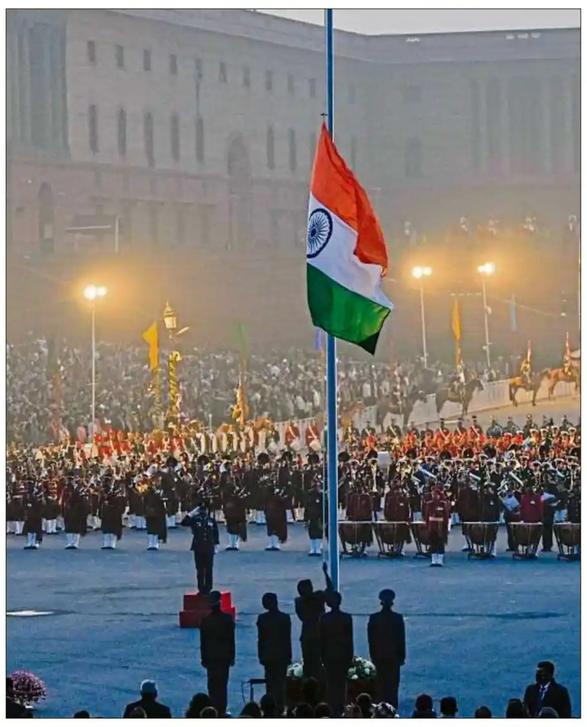
NEW DELHI, PTI: Despite the Supreme Court granting bail to five accused in the 2020 Delhi riots larger conspiracy case earlier this month, a Delhi court has denied relief to the other three co-accused facing almost similar charges in the case.

Additional Sessions Judge Sameer Bajpai, on Thursday, was hearing a bail application filed by Athar Khan, Salim Malik and ex-AAP councillor Tahir Hussain and denied them bail, saying that the prima facie case was made out against them in earlier orders and that bar still exists.

Athar Khan, Salim Malik and Tahir Hussain have been charged under the UAPA over their alleged involvement in the 2020 riots. The trio had filed their bail applications after the Supreme Court granted bail to five other accused in the same case on January 5, contending that they are facing similar charges and seeking parity.

"Despite the order of the Supreme Court regarding the co-accused persons, when this court has once formed the opinion that a prima facie case is made out against the applicant, no other different opinion can be formed now by reviewing the earlier order," it said, denying bail to ex-AAP councillor Tahir Hussain.

PATRIOTIC FERVOUR



The national flag is lowered at the end of the Beating Retreat ceremony, marking the conclusion of Republic Day celebrations, at Vijay Chowk, in New Delhi, on Thursday. PTI

CBI SIT finds vegetable oil used in Tirumala laddu ghee, not animal fat

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

A CBI-led Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the alleged adulteration of cow ghee used for Tirumala's laddu prasadam has revealed it as a "vegetable oil" fraud. Lab reports indicated rare chances of animal fats like tallow, lard, or fish oil.

The 223-page supplementary and final chargesheet, filed on January 22 before the Special Judge for ACB Cases in Nellore, seen by *DH*, accused 36 individuals and firms of a Rs 234 crore conspiracy from 2019 to 2024.

Key accused Pomil Jain and Vipin Jain of Bhole Baba Organic Dairy Milk Pvt Ltd in Uttar Pradesh, allegedly orchestrated fake Agmark cow ghee production.

Tirupati laddu

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) procurement officials and plant inspection experts allegedly colluded, issuing favourable reports for ineligible firms in exchange for bribes like silver items, mobiles, and cash. Fake FSSAI records inflated production and milk procurement figures.

The chargesheet revealed the ghee was produced without cow milk or butter, using 5.2 lakh kg refined palm oil, 2 lakh kg palm kernel oil, and 2.5 lakh kg palmolien from Harsh Trading and Fresh Dairy Foodz. Chemicals like beta-carotene, acetic acid ester, lactic acid, monoglycerides, and ghee flavour mimicked aroma and lab values.

Further, the chargesheet alleged that Kaduru Chinnappanna (A-24), PA to the then TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy, abused his role in ghee tenders. He allegedly demanded Rs 25 per kg commission from Pomil Jain. When unpaid, he influenced GM (Procurement) RSSVR Subramanyam to disqualify Bhole Baba. This awarded a 35% share of a 24.5 lakh kg tender to M/s Premier Agri Foods Pvt Ltd, Bareilly, at Rs 467.86/kg—a 42% hike. Chinnappanna then took Rs 50 lakh cash from Premier's MD, Jagmohan Gupta.

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Train fares and classified calculations

By refusing to disclose the methodology it employs to calculate train fares, the Indian Railways has undermined the citizens' right to know. The Central Information Commission (CIC), which endorsed this refusal, has landed another blow on the right. An online application was filed with the Railways in 2024, seeking detailed information on the base fare calculation mechanism for train tickets, including dynamic pricing and other factors that influenced the pricing. Rejecting the request, the Railways held that the classification and methodology in fixing fares fell under the category of "trade secret/ intellectual property rights" and could not be disclosed. This category is exempted under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, along with matters involving national security and personal secrecy, enabling authorities to deny information to the public. However, invoking the exemption in this case is unconvincing.

On an appeal to the CIC, Information Commissioner Swagat Das found no inconsistency in the Railways' position, ruled out intervention, and disposed of the appeal. The information sought is of high public interest because the Indian Railways is a public entity supported by the exchequer, and the paying passenger has the right to know how the fares are calculated. This right gains greater credence because the Indian Railways operates as a monopoly. The information cannot be a trade secret, as applied to a private commercial enterprise. While the Railways contend that the profits are "distributed" to the common man, the question arises whether investment in expansion and infrastructure can be considered as returning the profits to the public. Even if it does, the argument does not override the Railways' responsibility to explain the processes of its functioning to the public.

Processes that go into the pricing of a State-owned service cannot be kept away from the public

India has invested lakhs of crores of rupees in the Railways, which reports earnings from passenger traffic of more than Rs 75,000 crore. As a State entity, it needs to uphold the highest standards of transparency, accountability, and responsibility in its functioning. At a time when fares in some trains are moving close to air ticket prices, it is important to ensure transparency in the methods of pricing. The CIC has chosen to back the Railways' privilege, in denial of the people's right to know. Over the years, India has seen a weakening of the RTI law and the systems it created. The information sought from the Railways should have been in the public realm even without a law. When structures established to ensure transparency in governance drift off their core objectives, the ensuing crisis calls for urgent and deep corrections.

No closure: MUDA probe must continue

The acceptance of the 'B' report in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) land allotment case by the Special Court for Elected Representatives marks a significant legal and political moment for Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The closure report filed by the Lokayukta police has come as a decisive shot in the arm at a time when speculation is rife over a change in leadership. Had the report been rejected, Siddaramaiah's position in both the government and the party would have become untenable. Instead, the order has blunted opposition demands for his resignation and has strengthened his grip over the Congress Legislature Party. For Siddaramaiah, who consistently took pride in a four-decade-long "unblemished" political career, the accusations had struck at the core of his public persona. The case centred on allegations of irregularities in the allotment of 14 compensatory sites by MUDA to the chief minister's wife, B M Parvathi, with claims that undue benefit had accrued to his family. Although Parvathi sought the moral high ground by returning the sites, the gesture did not extinguish the legal process. The 'clean chit', which in legal terms signifies the absence of prosecutable evidence, clears Siddaramaiah, his wife, his brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy and the original landowner Devaraj of criminal liability.

Clean chit leaves Siddaramaiah stronger, even as questions remain on corruption within the authority

The road to this relief was, however, fraught with constitutional friction and legal skirmishes. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's controversial 2024 decision to grant sanction for Siddaramaiah's prosecution was described by the Congress as an attempt to destabilise the government. While a single bench of the High Court had upheld the Governor's power to grant sanction, it had simultaneously provided a buffer by staying the notices issued by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to Siddaramaiah and his family. The ED's appeal was subsequently dismissed by the Supreme Court. The Lokayukta's report now allows the Congress to argue that the entire episode was politically motivated.

However, this is not the end of the MUDA story. Activist Snehamayi Krishna, whose protest petition the special court dismissed, has indicated that he will approach the High Court. Moreover, the special court has directed that investigations into the larger MUDA irregularities must continue. The ED has already arrested a former MUDA commissioner and attached immovable assets worth over Rs 450 crore. Siddaramaiah may have won an important personal and political battle, but the state should ensure that the closure of the case against the Chief Minister does not signal the end of accountability for the systemic rot within MUDA.

BEYOND TARIFFS

Labour mobility can unlock real FTA gains

By embedding India deeper into European supply chains, the deal opens up diverse avenues for a ready workforce

DEEPANSHU MOHAN, ADITI LAZARUS AND SAKSHAM RAJ

The India-European Union free trade agreement, anchored between two major global markets accounting for roughly 25% of global share and GDP, comes at a crucial time. EU-India goods trade has grown sharply, complemented by €83 billion in services trade in 2024 and an increase in European investment into India. EU's FDI stock in India also rose to €140.1 billion in 2023, and nearly 6,000 European companies now operate in the country.

The agreement will seek to eliminate or reduce tariffs on 96.6% of EU exports to India, a change expected to double European sales by 2032 and save firms about €4 billion each year. In exchange, India will receive preferential access for over 99% of its export value to the EU, providing a major boost to labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather, marine products, gems and jewellery, chemicals, and base metals. Close to $33 billion of these exports will see tariffs fall to 10% or to zero, a crucial gain at a time when the United States has raised tariffs on some Indian goods to 50%. India also secures predictable access to 144 EU service subsectors and a mobility framework covering corporate transferees, professionals, and students.

Reductions in machinery, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and automotive tariffs create reciprocal access in sectors central to EU competitiveness, while calibrated openings in agri-food allow India to liberalise without exposing sensitive farm segments. Beyond tariff reductions, the agreement promotes regulatory alignment across sustainability, carbon accounting, certification, digital trade, and product standards. It strengthens customs cooperation and risk management systems to translate market access into actual production shifts rather than simple trade rerouting. The deal also widens European access to India's financial and maritime services and reinforces intellectual property protections.

Europe's renewed economic engagement with India is also driven by structural economic pressures rather than diplomatic symbolism. EU growth is expected to remain low (1.3% in 2025 and 1.2% in 2026), but the deeper challenge lies in a labour market stretched far beyond capacity. More than three-quarters of EURES countries report critical deficits across essential technical and industrial occupations. The wind energy sector requires 150,000 additional workers by 2030, and the solar industry has begun to slow despite employing more than 865,000 people.

Europe is projected to need more than one million additional workers for its green economy in the coming decade. Industrial cost structures are also under strain. Rising energy and material costs account for more than one-third of operating expenses across several sectors. These pressures have pushed the EU to externalise segments of production to reliable and cost-efficient partners. The agreement turns this demand condition into an institutional pathway.

India, too, has undergone structural changes that position it to absorb this

relocated manufacturing demand. The logistics sector is projected to expand from $107 billion to nearly $160 billion by FY28, semiconductor capacity is expected to rise from $38 billion to over $100 billion by 2030, and India has met its target of 50% non-fossil-fuel-installed capacity ahead of schedule. Yet India occupies lower-value positions in EU supply chains, as imports remain dominated by high-value machinery and precision technologies.

The FTA is designed to shift this pattern by embedding Indian firms deeper into European production networks. This shift is reinforced by the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, which could raise India's exports by 5-8% by reducing Suez-dependent routes. Electronics, renewable-energy components, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and automotive systems are the sectors most likely to benefit.

Manufacturing, growing at 5.4% year-on-year with $184 billion in exports in April-August 2005, has become the anchor of India's growth strategy. Yet nearly 11% of these exports still rely on the US, creating exposure to tariff swings and a more protectionist American industrial policy. The agreement reduces this concentration risk by opening diversified, standards-driven European value chains in areas that broaden India's strategic manufacturing options. However, realising these gains depends on whether India can also meet Europe's skill needs, making labour mobility a decisive, yet unsettled arena of the FTA.

A demographic contrast

A central determinant of India's potential value-gain from the FTA is labour mobility, because in many regulated and technical segments of European industry, meaningful value-chain integration still requires the on-site presence of specialised personnel. EU labour markets face acute shortages across healthcare, construction, engineering and ICT, with 42 occupations officially listed in deficit. These trends increasingly push Europe to source high-skill talent from external partners like India. These shortages are intensified by demographic projections indicating a steady decline in the working-age population through 2050.

India sits at the opposite demographic frontier, with 600 million youth under 25 and employability rising from 33% to over 50% in a decade. In 2024, Indians received 52,890 study and research authorisations, 16,268 EU Blue Cards (20.8%), 3,346 intra-corporate transfer permits (32.7%), and 39,137 seasonal permits –the highest among non-EU countries.

The FTA introduces a structured mobility regime. It secures predictable access for intra-corporate transferees, business visitors, contractual service suppliers across 37 subsectors, and independent professionals across 17 subsectors, including IT, professional services, R&D, and education. Dependents of ICTs gain working rights, and India obtains frameworks for social security agreements, student mobility, and post-study work.

Yet, structural constraints remain. Licensing, sponsorship, and qualification recognition continue to sit with national regulators. The EQF offers comparability, but no automatic recognition, and India's NSQF remains unaligned. This means Indian engineers, technicians, and healthcare workers must undergo repeated assessments across member states, slowing deployment in regulated sectors.

The implication is clear: tariff liberalisation expands market access, but mobility determines whether India can embed talent inside European production ecosystems and move into higher-value segments of Euro-linked supply chains. Notwithstanding some critical concerns, by aligning with Brussels, New Delhi secures its position as a "sovereign bridge", leveraging European capital to dilute Washington's trade arbitrariness while offering a credible, high-standard manufacturing alternative to the Chinese monopoly.

(Deepanshu is Professor of Economics and Dean, O P Jindal Global University; Aditi and Saksham are research analysts with the Centre for New Economics Studies at the university)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Fallen but prized

My extreme stage fright stood between me and my esteemed prize

KUMUDA PURUSHOTHAM

It is the dream of every school-going child to win a prize in school competitions. As a nine-year-old, I was no different. My friends proudly displayed their prizes, much to my shame. Though I hankered after one, my extreme stage fright stood between me and my esteemed prize. I never competed.

Once, the desire was so overwhelming that I impulsively gave my name for a poetry recitation competition. For the next few days, my preparation was so perfect that my granny remarked I could recite it faultlessly even in my sleep. Full of confidence, I walked onto the stage and stood before the microphone. A hundred-odd pairs of eyes stared at me expectantly. I froze. My mouth went dry. I stood still, hearing my class teacher prompting from what felt like light years away.

"*Twinkle twinkle..*"she prompted. I repeated, "*twinkle twinkle...*" She prompted again, "*Little star*....you continue." I repeated, "*Little star* ..you continue". Her voice nudged me again but in vain. As children in the front row recited the full poem in chorus, I was gently escorted to the side wings.

My longing for a prize resurfaced when I was selected for a group dance performance two years later. On my request, I was placed in the last row. I stared at the floor the entire ordeal avoiding looking at the audience; it was a grand success. All the dancers were given prizes. For the first time in my life, I held a prize in my hand--a snow-white plastic swan with a blue-coloured baby riding it. Holding it aloft, I ran home joyfully, shouting "Amma!"

My younger cousin, who met me at the gate, demanded, "Give it to me." When I refused, she persisted: "Didn't *ajji* say we should share everything?" She grabbed it; I held on. Poor swan. Desperately seeking freedom, it slipped from our clutches and fell, breaking neatly into two pieces --perfectly shared, as per *ajji*'s edict.

Time passed and I was in college, but the wish remained. The physics department announced an essay competition on atomic energy – perfect, as it involved no audience. I spent days in the library and submitted my essay. Weeks later, I saw my name topping the list of prize winners.

I rushed to collect the prize, only to be told it would be presented on College Day by an honourable minister's wife. I resolved not to go on stage, but my mischievous friends pushed me forward when my name was called. The dignitary had already distributed dozens of prizes. When I stumbled up, she held a large packet in her shaking hands. Mine shook too. Between the two trembling pairs, the packet slipped, rolled off the stage, and hit mother earth with a loud metallic thud.

The next day, I collected the prize from the department attender -- a delicately carved brass flower vase, bearing a small dent from its fall. That priceless prize adorned a place of pride in my home.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chalavadi's actions undermine institutional sanctity

I refer to 'Chalavadi tears Rule Book, chaos mars Council proceedings' (Jan 29). The incident raises serious concerns regarding adherence to constitutional procedure and legislative discipline. The Rule Book of the Legislative Council derives authority from Article 208 of the Constitution, which mandates the orderly conduct of business in accordance with prescribed rules. Any symbolic destruction of such material, irrespective of intent, undermines institutional sanctity and the supremacy of procedure. While the Opposition is entitled to dissent and seek ministerial accountability, constitutional practice requires that such dissent operate strictly within the framework of rules and conventions. Democratic accountability is best achieved through debate, motions, voting, and recorded protest rather than disruption.

K V Chandramouli, Mysuru

Industry-centric training

Apropos 'Companies sign pact with GTTC to recruit 200 diploma students' (Jan 29), it is heartening that the Government Tool Room & Training Centre has signed MoUs with different companies to place its diploma students. As a routine practice, institutions conducting diploma as well as engineering courses should contact different companies to understand their needs and design different tech courses accordingly, train candidates, and get them recruited.

A K Shariff, Mysuru

Regulate AI

As artificial intelligence continues to grow rapidly, precautions are necessary. That Elon Musk's Grok could generate thousands of non-consensual sexually explicit images of women and young girls, is deeply concerning. This is a serious issue that demands immediate action. To ensure that such incidents do not occur again, strong regulations should be put in place.

Anagha Saagar, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

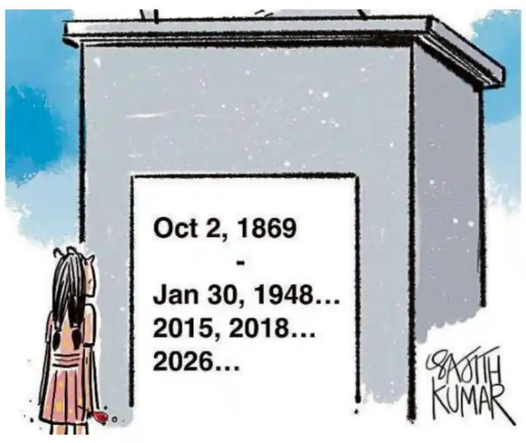
Prime Minister Modi has never discriminated against anyone in the country... People like us live only for the people of our country.

Giriraj Singh, Union Minister

Self-righteousness is a loud din raised to drown the voice of conscience.

Eric Hoffer

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

Merit or bias? The case for a civil debate

UGC's checks against caste-based discrimination are necessary to address entrenched disadvantages

D JEEVAN KUMAR

The University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations 2026 have generated intense reactions across the country. Anti-reservation groups have taken to the streets, arguing that these norms threaten merit, dilute autonomy, and create new divisions on campus. On Thursday, the Supreme Court put on hold the regulations, citing "vague" provisions and the dangers of them being "misused", and suggested a relook by a committee of jurists.

For thousands of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students, the regulations represent something simple: an attempt to address the discrimination and exclusion they continue to face in institutions that are supposed to nurture intellectual freedom and equality. A balanced reading of the issue requires acknowledging both realities.

Despite higher enrolment in recent years, numerous studies – the *Thorat Committee Report on AIIMS* (2007), the Indian Institute of Dalit Studies' campus climate surveys, data submitted to SC/ST Commissions, and UGC consultations – show that discrimination in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) remains widespread.

First, campus climates remain hostile for many SC/ST students. Slurs, subtle exclusion from peer groups, faculty scepticism about their abilities, and microaggressions create an atmosphere where learning becomes secondary to survival. Second, academic evaluation often shows patterns of bias. The disparities mirror the documented reluctance of faculty to supervise research by SC/ ST students or include them in advanced projects. Third, social capital deficits compound these challenges. Many SC/ST students are first-generation learners navigating unfamiliar academic cultures, English-medium instruction, and limited financial buffers. Fourth, existing institutional mechanisms such as SC/ST cells often lack autonomy, and grievance processes are opaque.

The 2026 Regulations are an attempt to correct these systemic deficits, not an ideological imposition. They introduce three key reforms: 1. Mandatory institutional structures: Every HEI must establish a fully functional Equity Promotion Cell, with defined responsibilities and measurable outputs. 2. Academic and psychological support: Bridge courses, peer mentoring, counselling services, and faculty orientation on inclusive pedagogy. 3. Monitoring and accountability: Institutions must submit annual equity reports, disclose data on representation and grievances, and face penalties for non-compliance.

These reforms do not change quotas of reservation, nor do they privilege one category over another. They simply ensure that the constitutional promise of equality is honoured.

A democratic approach requires taking critics seriously. Several concerns raised by anti-reservation groups deserve engagement, even if one disagrees with their conclusions.

"Merit will suffer" is a weak argument against equity. Merit is not abstract; it is shaped by schooling quality, coaching access, nutrition, language proficiency, and inherited social capital. Evidence shows that SC/ST students perform on par with their peers when systemic obstacles are removed. Concerns over these measures stigmatising SC/ST students are not credible – stigma arises from caste prejudice, not from support systems. The regulations create no punitive measures against general-category students. Furthermore, it is being contended that the regulations would erode institutional autonomy. This autonomy, however, cannot override constitutional values. Finally, the threat of deepened caste division. It must be noted that the regulations did not create this division; they simply make it visible.

A constructive approach requires stronger implementation without bureaucratisation. HEIs should adopt transparent processes, train faculty in inclusive practices, and design mentoring programmes that support all disadvantaged learners. Instead of confrontation, universities should facilitate structured debates between student groups, allowing concerns to be expressed without demonisation. The conversation should shift from quotas to capabilities. The real question is not "Who gets admission?" but "Who gets to succeed?" This aligns with Ambedkar's vision of social justice, Gandhi's talisman of serving the last person, and the capability approach of Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum.

Equity strengthens excellence

The heated response to the UGC's 2026 Regulations reflects both the deep anxieties and deep inequalities embedded in Indian higher education. But the debate must not obscure the central truth: excellence is impossible without equity. An institution cannot be called world-class if it tolerates caste-based humiliation or leaves first-generation learners without support.

The new regulations are not about favouring some and punishing others; they are about ensuring fairness, dignity, and accountability in our universities. Critics deserve to be heard, but so do the students who bear the brunt of discrimination. India's universities must rise above polarisation and reaffirm their commitment to constitutional morality and the rights of every learner.

(The writer taught Political Science at Bangalore University. He is currently an honorary professor at the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag)

Mark Tully: The voice through which India spoke

SATISH CHAPPARIKE

That day, in a gentle drizzle, I stepped out to find an address in New Delhi's Nizamuddin East. As I walked through its quiet lanes, an unspoken excitement stirred within me. I was on my way to meet a voice through which India had spoken to the world.

This meeting had taken nine long months to materialise. It was not merely an interview; it was the fulfilment of a deeply cherished personal dream. Precisely at 3 pm, I rang the bell. The door opened to Gillian Wright, who welcomed me warmly inside. Beside her stood their pet dog, wagging its tail affectionately.

"Satish is here," Gillian called out as she led the dog indoors. I settled into a sofa in the drawing room. The space felt like a living museum—a house that seemed to breathe history. And within it lived a man who was history itself.

Sir William Mark Tully walked up to me, shook my hand gently, placed an arm around my shoulder, and said warmly, "Today I have kept aside two full hours just for you."

Sitting opposite me was the former chief of the *BBC*'s New Delhi Bureau, a role he held for nearly three decades—a journalist who had reported India's defining moments to the world. Though well into his eighties, his eyes sparkled with youthful curiosity. Within minutes, his gentle words dissolved all formality. I felt I was speaking not to a legend, but to an old, trusted friend—a godfather of sorts.

Born in Kolkata to a British civil servant, Mark spent much of his childhood in Darjeeling, attending a boarding school. At 19, he was sent to England for higher studies. At Trinity Hall, Cambridge University, he studied theology. After two semesters, however, he realised that the Church's rigid rules regarding personal life conflicted with his own beliefs. With remarkable honesty, he chose to abandon that path.

A small notice on a *BBC* notice board later altered the course of his life. It invited applications for the post of assistant administrative officer at the *BBC*'s New Delhi office. Mark applied. During the interview, he was asked to count in Hindi—*Ek, do, teen... das*. That was enough. After completing radio broadcasting training in London, he arrived in Delhi as the *BBC*'s Hindi correspondent. In those days, radio was the most trusted medium, and Mark believed that absolute trust was the bedrock of journalism—and of his career.

He spoke at length about defining moments in India's political history: the wars of 1965 and 1971 with Pakistan, Indira Gandhi's rise, and, most significantly, the Emergency of 1975. Foreign media organisations were pressured to sign government declarations. Mark refused. As a result, he was expelled from India and given just 24 hours to leave. He returned to England unwillingly. When the Emergency ended, he returned—this time as chief of the *BBC*'s New Delhi Bureau. Over the next two decades, he witnessed and reported almost every turning point in modern Indian history.

Mark reported on Mother Teresa's Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, Operation Blue Star, Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984, and the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992—covering these momentous events with rare proximity, courage, and integrity. Repeatedly, the *BBC* offered him senior positions in other countries, but he consistently declined. He would say he had no objection to being transferred—but he would not leave India. If forced, he would resign.

Eventually, in 1993, Mark resigned at the age of fifty-nine. By then, his wife, Margaret, and their children had grown distant from him. Though legally married, their lives had taken separate paths. Gillian Wright—a writer and journalist—had by then become his life partner. From fifty-nine to eighty-five, Mark wrote extensively, anchored radio and television programmes, and continued to present India's soul to the world with honesty and empathy.

During our long conversations, Mark shared countless political anecdotes. Between stories, memories of Delhi flowed effortlessly—morning walks in Lodhi Garden, tea at Azad Bhavan, browsing bookshops in Khan Market, evenings at Connaught Place, and late-night South Indian meals. Each memory surfaced with childlike affection.

As we concluded our meeting, Mark clasped my hand firmly and said, "Good things in life take time." He added that had we not met, we would have lost a valuable friendship—one that would have remained unrealised forever.

A few months later, at my invitation, Mark visited Bengaluru and spent four days with me. He interacted with university students, attended a book launch, and met old friends. On the day of his departure, as he was driven to the airport, he spoke quietly about his bond with India. India, he said, was not merely a country but a way of life. Had he not come to India, his life would have felt incomplete. India was his *karma bhumi*, and merging into its soil, he believed, would be his destiny. He merged with it precisely as he wished.

When Mark passed away on Sunday, January 25, 2026, I was deep inside the Western Ghats, far beyond the reach of the civilian world. When I finally emerged from the forest and switched on my mobile phone, the news struck me with a force I was unprepared for. But, for me, Mark has not gone anywhere. He lives on—in my heart and everywhere around me.

I can stand on the summit of Everest and proclaim to the world that Mark Tully was the one journalist who understood India more deeply than anyone else—and reported on it without agenda or bias. He is eternal.

Sir William Mark Tully lives on through his stories, books, and timeless wisdom. Who could ever forget his warmth—the firm handshake, gentle hug, soft smile, and sparkling wit that lit up every conversation?

(The writer is a storyteller, novelist and a non-working Journalist)

The violence in Minneapolis and President Trump's threats have soured Greenlanders on the US and, unexpectedly, pushed them closer to Denmark

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Greenlanders watching the US turmoil say no thanks

MAYA TEKELI AND JEFFREY GETTLEMAN

Not long ago, Aviaja Sinkbaek, an office manager in Greenland, thought it was time to ease further away from 300 years of Danish rule and maybe think about independence. She was even open to drawing closer to the United States.

Now as she watches the images of violence coming out of Minneapolis from her pale green rowhouse on a hillside above Nuuk, Greenland's capital, her ears still ringing with President Trump's threats about getting her homeland somehow, she's changed her mind.

"It's crazy," Sinkbaek said about what's happening in Minnesota.

"He's crazy," she added, about Trump.

Sinkbaek, 51, had worked in the Boston area as an *au pair* years ago, but said America was no longer a "safe option."

Though Trump recently declared that he won't seize Greenland by force, the crisis he has single-handedly created has alarmed American allies in Europe, threatened the NATO alliance and pushed US relations with Denmark to a breaking point. It has also revealed the shifting view of America from abroad, at least from the perspective of this Arctic island that is a semi-autonomous territory of Denmark.

The United States defended Greenland during World War II and the Cold War, and Greenlanders used to see Americans as protectors. But now the idea of joining up with the United States — a deeply divided nation with no universal health care, widening inequality and chaos on full display in the streets of Minneapolis — is not so appealing.

"What are we supposed to think of the U.S. now?" asked Julie Rademacher, who heads a Greenlandic association in Denmark. She said she too had been disturbed by the news from Minnesota.

"I feel a lot of sympathy with many American citizens," she said. "It must be hard to live like that."

Most of Greenland's 57,000 people — a tiny population on a gigantic island — are Indigenous Inuits and many are well-informed on how the United States has treated its own Indigenous people and its territories overseas.

Greenland's per capita income of around $60,000 is considerably higher than those in the American territories of Puerto Rico, Guam and American Samoa, Rademacher pointed out. The growing consensus among Greenlanders, according to many interviews conducted in the past few weeks, is that they are far better off under their current system, which is subsidised by Denmark but allows Greenlanders a fair bit of latitude to run their own affairs, than they would be as Americans.

The pressure by Trump has backfired in an important way. Instead of hastening Greenland to split off from Denmark — a sentiment that had been growing in recent years — it has pushed Greenland closer to its former coloniser.

That shift became explicit when Greenland's prime minister, Jens-Frederik Nielsen, stood beside Mette Frederiksen, Denmark's prime minister, in Copenhagen this month and said that if Greenland were forced to choose between Denmark and the United States, it would choose Denmark.

It was a strong message. If anything, Greenland had been moving away from Denmark and a poll last year showed that the majority of Greenlanders favoured independence.

Colonised in 1721, the island has gained more autonomy in recent decades. Denmark still pays for more than half of its budget, but the local economy, based primarily on fishing, has been growing, giving Greenlanders hope that one day in the not-so-distant future they will be able to rely on themselves.

There's also been a greater interest in re-examining the colonial past and all the abuses that came with it. Resentment toward Denmark had been growing, along with a greater itch to cut the cord.

Trump changed all that.

Many Greenlanders now see Denmark as their best protector in a topsy-turvy world and say independence would leave them vulnerable.

"We are not discussing independence right now," said Aqqaluk Lynge, a former member of Greenland's Parliament. "What we are talking about is survival."

In the past few weeks, as Trump sharpened his threats, people interviewed in Nuuk said they were sleeping poorly, felt anxious and distracted, and were glued to their phones. His fixation with Greenland has created almost a second weather system that Greenlanders can't escape.

The fears spiked during a sudden blackout in Nuuk last week. Many people said in interviews that they thought it was the beginning of an American invasion. It turned out to be a malfunctioning power line because of high winds.

Many Greenlanders said they felt grateful to Denmark's prime minister for standing up to Mr. Trump, including her recent decision to import a small contingent of European military forces to carry out exercises in Greenland and back her up — at least symbolically.

"I just say, 'Wow,'" Rademacher said. "It takes a lot of courage to stand up to the world's most powerful man."

Qupanuk Olsen, a former member of the Greenlandic Parliament with a large following on social media, said she still supports independence but that the appetite among the wider public is less now.

"People are scared," she said. "They think Denmark has saved us."

She, personally, disagrees with that, saying, "We have been manipulated into believing that we cannot stand on our own."

For centuries, Danish authorities undermined Greenlandic identity, suppressing Indigenous religion, breaking up families and displacing communities. Greenlandic women and girls had been subjected to forced birth control as part of a state-led effort to keep down population growth — a policy that left lasting trauma and that Ms. Frederiksen apologised for a few months ago.

But as fears of a US takeover have spread, the feelings about independence have grown more complicated.

"If you want independence now, it's like taking something out of the oven too early," said Ivik Paulsen, a lawyer living in Nuuk. "Something has stepped in front of it that we have to deal with first."

Many Greenlanders come from ancestors who learned how to survive in one of the most remote and desolate places on the planet. Today they are used to a high Scandinavian standard of living, and some credit Denmark for that.

Corinne Halling, a front desk manager at a hotel in downtown Nuuk, said she sees Denmark as "a parent above us that helps."

"That's a huge advantage and a huge privilege," she said.

Breaking away from Denmark is not a good idea right now, she said, so "why not strengthen the cooperation instead?"

For now, Greenland's long conversation about freedom appears to have been interrupted by a harsher question of safety. Independence, once framed as a moral and historical reckoning, is being recalibrated against the realities of power, proximity and fear.

The New York Times

Why dust off the digital audio player in 2026

PUSHKAR V

Last week, stuck in Bengaluru commute, I slipped on my headphones to escape the noise. But my phone would not stop buzzing. Notifications from WhatsApp, Insta, and news apps kept popping up. I found myself switching every two minutes, doomscrolling, even jumping to music apps. Total distraction—now the norm.

I craved offline music: just pick a playlist and zone out. No ads interrupting, no data drain eating into my balance. Then I saw the Sony NW-ZX900 leak online, hinting at a fresh digital Walkman. Funny coincidence—around the same time, my mom dug out my old MP3 player while cleaning. She blew off the dust, handed it to me and asked, "Does this even work anymore?"

Those were the glory days of the Walkman and iPod. Back in the 1990s and 2000s, everyone had one clipped to their belt or stuffed in a pocket. I remember walking to college with my chunky Walkman CD player—a big palm-sized gadget that never fit into my pocket. It stayed in my bag while I fished out the headphone wire without tangling it into knots and somehow got it to my ears without tripping over. Still, flipping through CD albums and hitting play felt like magic.

Then the iPod changed everything. That sleek white wheel spinning through thousands of songs felt like pure joy, a pocket of music freedom. Just when we were settling in, smartphones arrived and killed them all. Why lug an extra gadget when your phone could play music, radio and stream anything? By 2015, MP3 players looked like dead dinosaurs.

Now, they are stirring again. Audiophiles crave better sound – hi-res audio that streaming services don't always deliver properly. Streaming fatigue is real. Big platforms like Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube Music, and JioSaavn push subscription models hard. Pay for premium or endure ads blasting every few songs and sound stuck at low quality. Those free plans control everything; algorithms pick your playlists you didn't ask for and shove suggestions you did not want. You lose control over what you actually love. Folks are fed up renting music forever from these giants. They want that old feeling of owning their tunes again.

Today's digital audio player (DAP) scene looks promising. Sony is still pushing the digital Walkman lineup, like the A306 and ZX707, which are selling well thanks to hi-res audio codecs and long battery life. ZX900 rumours have better chips and processors for smoother play of high-quality audio, which has got everyone talking. Small brands are jumping in too. FiiO with M27 and Shanling M0s are both available in India. Not huge startups but nimble ones filling the gap with cool portables. These players pack features like balanced outputs and app support, making them perfect for local tastes from Hamsalekha to Taylor Swift to global indie.

The market in this segment is growing about 12% year-on-year, added to the sales of high-quality headphones. Gen Z loves the retro vibe too; they collect vinyl and are now eyeing digital players for that old-school feel mixed with modern sound. Social media is buzzing with unboxing videos by young creators pairing them with IEMs for that authentic soundstage.

This matters to me. On hectic days or leisurely drives, music helps me unwind and find calm. Pure sound from a DAP lets you connect deeply with the tunes, without distractions pulling you away. In India, rising middle-class audiophiles may also skip steep subscription bills from constant streaming services. But will people truly take ownership of their music again? That remains to be seen. Still, it's an exciting thought– phones losing their grip, just a little.

Later that day, I charged that old MP3 player my mom found, and guess what? It started working fine. I plugged in, scrolled through those long- forgotten songs –Green Day's *American Idiot* and Savage Garden – and smiled at memories.

It almost felt like a small rebellion against nonstop screen life – always on, always connected, always interrupting. In 2026, I hope this trend gathers steam. Not everyone will ditch phones, of course, but maybe the DAP can return as a sidekick for quiet moments of pure escape. Funny how dusty old gadgets can spark something new. What's next–the typewriter?

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: JANUARY 1976

Parliament seal for COFEPOSA Bill

New Delhi, Jan. 29
Parliament today passed the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities (Amendment) Bill, 1976. The Bill passed by the Lok Sabha on January 27, was adopted by the Rajya Sabha today where members from all political parties welcomed it and hoped that the Government would be able to check smuggling and foreign exchange racketeering more effectively. Minister for Revenue and Banking Pranab Kumar Mukherjee moved the Bill.

25 YEARS AGO: JANUARY 2001

Bangalore, parts of state shaken

Bangalore, Jan 29
Even as people in the state have been watching the gory scenes of human misery in Gujarat over the last three days, Bangalore and parts of Tumkur, Mandya, Kolar, Chamarajnagar, and Mysore districts had to experience mild tremors this morning triggering panic. The tremors with an intensity of 4.3 on the Richter scale occurred at 8:08 am and lasted for nearly two to three seconds. Soon after, a wave of panic spread across the city, several schools declared a holiday and sent children back home.

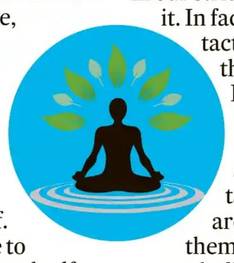
OASIS | LEELA RAMASWAMY

In conversation with oneself

Talking to oneself is largely unacceptable. It is looked upon as crazy behaviour, something to be hidden or laughed away. It was in my first years of marriage that I came across it. My mother-in –law (who was less than kind) was doing it. It left me bewildered and frightened, and I promised myself not to ever fall victim to this habit.

The years went by and suddenly, one day, I caught myself talking to myself. It left me both mystified and curious. I thought over it deeply and did some research. I found that talking to yourself can expose every aspect of a deed that you are contemplating, laying bare motives and doubts. It is a good way to know yourself better.

As with many things, there are two sides to an occurrence. True, talking to oneself may be a mental aberration, but it can also be a healthy way of organising thoughts and solving problems. It can be the 'inner voice' that helps to focus attention and to regulate oneself. In other words, it can prove to be a reliable tool for clarity and self discipline.



Young children often talk to themselves. They may have imaginary friends. Or they may repeat what they learned in school. We take this in our stride and are not troubled by it. In fact, adults might use this tactic to remind themselves of the groceries they must buy. Players use it on playing fields to give a boost to their winning skills. There are those who feel that self-talk can create a presence around them that makes them feel better. It helps them to ward off loneliness and quiet inner fears.

Talking to oneself can be directed at things belonging to the lower order. I remember the time I spoke to a mango tree that had not yielded fruit for many years. I told it severely that it would be cut down if it did not fruit. And wonder of wonders, it yielded six mangoes that year. It went back to its old ways after that, but it stopped me from carrying out my threat. Did it really hear me and did it respond suitably? I cannot say for certain, but I lean towards the positive and believe it did hear me.

Talking to yourself need not always be condemned. It could well be a normal thing to do--perhaps even a gentle sign of an inward, relective life.

Andhra Pradesh plans policy to restrict minors on social media

Minister directs officials to study laws in Singapore, Australia, Malaysia and France

THE RIGHT COURSE

- Naidu govt explores local law to regulate social media use by minors
- Forms GoM to tackle online hate, misinformation
- Ministers push for stricter rules amid rising cybercrime

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Andhra Pradesh is set to draft a policy restricting minors below a specified age from accessing social media. Chairing a Group of Ministers (GoM) meeting on strengthening social media accountability, Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh on Wednesday directed officials to study policies in Singapore, Australia, Malaysia and France aimed at curbing children's access.

He instructed them to prepare guidelines incorporating Supreme Court directives. Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar, also a member of the GoM, noted that Malaysia allows social media access only to those above 16, verified through e-KYC linked to My Digital ID and passport details.

The GoM reached consensus on the need to protect children from social media, while tasking officials with reviewing international age-limit laws.

Minister Lokesh called for strict action against fake news posters and habitual offenders inciting hate based on caste, religion or region. He proposed summoning compliance officers from Google, Meta and X to the next GoM meeting.

The panel decided to notify a state-level Adjudicating Officer under Section 46 of the IT Act to penalise hate comments. Officials reported that actions had already been initiated through the central government's Sahyog portal, with discussions also covering computer-related offences, cybercrime curbs and the functioning of cyber police stations.

Formed by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu in September 2025, the GoM aims to recommend a new bill to address gaps in existing laws against online vitriol and misinformation. Its members include IT Minister Nara Lokesh, Health Minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav, Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar, Housing and I&PR Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy and Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha.

The GoM's mandate is to review national social media laws, identify accountability shortfalls, and propose remedies amid growing concerns over cybercriminals.

Mere installation of CCTVs in police stations not enough: SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Thursday said mere installation of CCTVs at police stations across the country is not enough, as those should also work properly.

Taking up a suo-motu case in connection with CCTV cameras in police stations, a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta highlighted key concerns like connectivity, maintenance, data storage, oversight, etc.

The Rajasthan government informed that an additional budget of Rs 75 crore was sanctioned on Wednesday, and each police station in the state will have 16 CCTVs, instead of 12, by March 31.

Senior advocate Siddharth Dave, acting as amicus curiae, emphasised the need to have a centralised dashboard.

He pointed out that the Union and states of Gujarat and Chhattisgarh have not filed affidavits. "NIA has filed an affidavit, but nothing effective has been said. Jharkhand, Odisha and NIA have given just for the sake of filing... it is not an empty formality," he said.

He appreciated the works undertaken in states like Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Rajasthan, terming them as "model states", which have given a positive response that can be emulated by other states.

The bench asked the amicus curiae to have a virtual conference with Home Secretaries and Director Generals of Police of all states/UTs.

SIT summons ex-T'gana CM KCR in phone-tapping case

HYDERABAD, DHNS

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing alleged phone tapping in Telangana under the previous BRS regime has summoned former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao(KCR) to appear for questioning on January 30.

SIT officials visited KCR's Nandi Nagar residence in Banjara Hills on Thursday to serve the CrPC Section 160 notice, empowering investigators to summon witnesses. This marks KCR's first summons as the team has already recorded statements from son KT Rama Rao and nephews T Harish Rao and Joginapally Santosh Kumar.

The notice, signed by Assistant Commissioner of Police P Venkatagiri of Jubilee Hills, stated, "During the course of investigation, it has been revealed that you are acquainted with facts and circumstances relevant to the case. Your examination is therefore necessary. Accordingly, you are hereby required to make yourself available on 30-01-2026."

Given KCR's age above 65, the notice invokes CrPC Section 160 provision, waiving mandatory police station appearance. It adds, "If you so desire, you may voluntarily appear at Jubilee Hills Police Station or specify any other place within Hyderabad city convenient for examination. You are requested to inform your preferred place well in advance."

KCR, in response to the notices from SIT, had sought another date for his examination as he is preoccupied with giving authorisation letters to partymen for the February 11 polls for urban local bodies.

"At present nomination to the elections to the municipalities and municipal corporations are underway. Tomorrow is the last date for filing nomination to the elections. In view of the same, I am preoccupied with issuing authorisation to a number of persons as the elections are being held on a party basis. In view of the above, you may fix any other date of your convenience for my examination under Section 160 of the Cr PC," KCR wrote in a letter to the Jubilee Hills ACP, P Venkata giri.

Toll rises to 21 in Bengal fire, 28 still missing; prohibitory orders imposed

KOLKATA, PTI: The toll in the fire near Kolkata on January 26 has risen to 21 with 13 more bodies found from gutted buildings, while 28 people are still missing, raising fears that the number of fatalities are likely to increase, the police said on Thursday.

The authorities imposed prohibitory orders in the area, restricting public movement ahead of the proposed visit by Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari and other BJP leaders.

The devastating fire reduced to ashes two godowns and a manufacturing unit of a momo company at Anandapur in South 24 Parganas district, close to the city.

"Given the nature of the incident and the extent of damage, the possibility of the toll going up cannot be ruled out," a senior police officer said.

In view of the situation and ahead of a proposed visit by BJP leaders, prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita were imposed in the area from Wednesday midnight.

"A prohibitory order has been imposed to maintain law and order and to facilitate rescue and identification work," the police officer said.

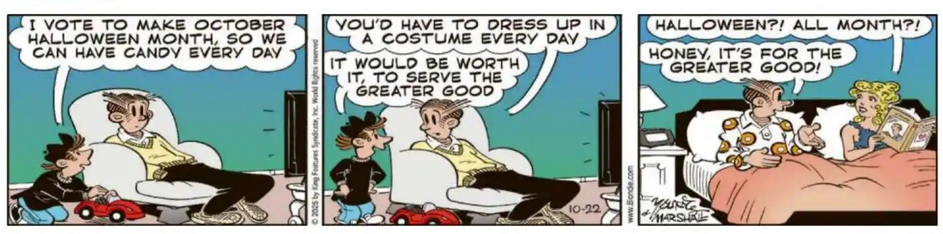
Adhikari has moved the Calcutta High Court seeking permission to visit the site and to take out a march from a nearby temple to the spot. The matter is likely to be heard by Justice Shubra Ghosh on Thursday, a source in the court said.

The Sunday night blaze reduced warehouses and a manufacturing unit to rubble.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie


I VOTE TO MAKE OCTOBER HALLOWEEN MONTH, SO WE CAN HAVE CANDY EVERY DAY
YOU'D HAVE TO DRESS UP IN A COSTUME EVERY DAY
IT WOULD BE WORTH IT, TO SERVE THE GREATER GOOD
HALLOWEEN?! ALL MONTH?!
HONEY, IT'S FOR THE GREATER GOOD!

Hagar The Horrible

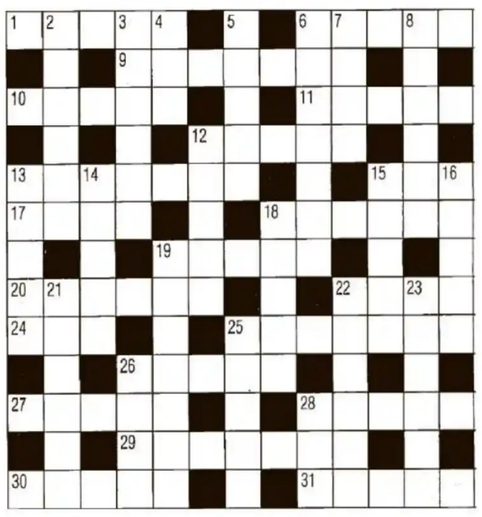
YOU KNOW WHO STOLE MY LOOT! I HAVE A HUNDRED WAYS TO MAKE YOU TALK, AND I CAN'T WAIT TO GET STARTED!
BALDUR THE BLACKSMITH!
INTERROGATING A SNITCH IS NO FUN!

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12343



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Step taken with heavy heart in prison (5)
6 Is such grass nice to lie on? (5)
9 Exclude a law that's wrong (4,3)
10 A growing source of second-class accommodation (5)
11 In which the spectators have no seats? (5)
12 Do the same (5)
13 Mother with one baby at least (7)
15 She helps hang out the washing (3)
17 Story of the picture (4)
18 Grating the front of the car! (6)
19 Many keen to make a name (5)
20 Could it make a hole in a towel outright? (6)
22 Brilliant performer in space (4)
24 Crime of passing dud notes? (3)
25 We figure to turn up at a reception (7)
26 Not exactly sixes, nevertheless boundaries (5)
27 Operatic character to see and copy (5)
28 Full of intestinal fortitude (5)
29 A drink and a good thing to eat? That's the stuff! (7)
30 Father leaves the pageant to be arranged by a deputy (5)
31 Those bashed by the peelers? (5)

DOWN
2 Boiling could turn one soft (6)
3 Being sarcastic gets one right ahead, I see (6)
4 The odd bit of crumpet (3)
5 Bearing in mind, maybe, the overall requirement (5)
6 Sweet letter for us, tucked inside a card (7)
7 Mr Cotton's forename? (4)
8 Scrub a can opener clean, perhaps (6)
12 Said to be due to Calvin being noble (5)
13 Warms to me and some officers (5)
14 Girl stuff (5)
15 Dog in orbit (5)
16 Such painting can be green (5)
18 Farmer, saint or soldier boy (5)
19 If cited wrongly, shows inadequacy (7)
21 Equestrianism in old Yorkshire (6)
22 Start scoffing steak, and steal some fruit (6)
23 Morning employed in being entertained (6)
25 Jam and cake, perhaps (5)
26 Write something personal (4)
28 Too much talk of a terror weapon (3)

ACROSS
1 Brittle (5)
6 Fencing swords (5)
9 Sustainable (7)
10 Performer (5)
11 Poplar (5)
12 Initial (5)
13 Light winds (7)
15 Encountered (3)
17 Whirlpool (4)
18 Andean mammal (6)
19 Savoury jelly (5)
20 Mystical (6)
22 In this place (4)
24 Tap affectionately (3)
25 Final game (7)
26 Started (5)
27 Greek dish (5)
28 Viper (5)
29 Obtain (7)
30 Type of wood (5)
31 Box (5)

DOWN
2 Log (6)
3 Floor (6)
4 For every (3)
5 Indian dresses (5)
6 Flexible (7)
7 Nuisance (4)
8 Cricket team (6)
12 Banquet (5)
13 Style of jazz (5)
14 Decree (5)
15 Stifled (5)
16 Narrow (5)
18 Female fox (5)
19 Branch of mathematics (7)
21 Photographic device (6)
22 Impede (6)
23 Feel remorse (6)
25 Fool (5)
26 Large rolls (4)
28 Curve (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12342

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, A-LP-in-e 7, Good will 8, Ticket 10, T-rice 13, Rare 14, Each 15, Pu-re 16, Bet 17, Uses 19, Ties 21, Brentford 23, Call 24, Lena 26, Way 27, Dr.-EW 29, Thin(king) 32, Moo-R 33, Me-use 34, Claims 35, Ex-tracts 36, Swedes.
DOWN: 1, A-gate 2, To-nic 3, Twee 4, (Gibr)Altar 5, Pace 6, N-I-eces 9, Ire-ton 11, Ray 12, C-hurl 13, Rustler 15, Pen 16, Be-d 18, Seldom 20, I-rate 21, Bay 22, Few 23, Call-ow 25, His 28, Roses 30, Hunch(back) 31, Newsy 32, Mild 33, MI-re.

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Auburn 7, Abattoir 8, Garage 10, Money 13, Cosy 14, Span 15, Cans 16, Dud 17, Slur 19, Edit 21, Guarantee 23, Keen 24, Vest 26, Ham 27, Claw 29, Edam 32, Lean 33, Probe 34, Cadets 35, Trembles 36, Versus.
DOWN: 1, Calms 2, Sauna 3, Stay 4, Argon 5, Bury 6, Ragout 9, Assets 11, Opt 12, Ensue 13, Caravan 15, Cur 16, Die 18, Lancet 20, Deter 21, Gem 22, New 23, Karate 25, Jab 28, Lasts 30, Dolls 31, Messy 32, Legs 33, Puma.

◆SU-DO-KU-6817◆

						9		
5			7	6			8	4
			2		5		1	6
				5		4		
		7	3		6	5		
		8		2				
6	4		9		3			
8	3			4	2			7
		2						

hard

SOLUTION TO 6816

5	6	7	4	8	9	1	2	3
8	4	1	2	3	7	9	6	5
2	9	3	5	6	1	4	7	8
3	5	2	6	9	4	7	8	1
9	7	8	1	5	3	2	4	6
6	1	4	8	7	2	5	3	9
7	2	6	3	1	5	8	9	4
1	3	9	7	4	8	6	5	2
4	8	5	9	2	6	3	1	7

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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S1 N1 A1 E1 H4 E1 A1 — Double Word Score — RACK 1
R1 H4 R1 B3 T1 T1 O1 — RACK 2
E1 G2 L1 N1 O1 O1 C3 — Triple Word Score — RACK 3
M3 A1 E1 T1 I1 L1 C3 — 4th Letter Double — RACK 4

PAR SCORE 110-120
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

P3 A1 T1 C3 H4 E1 R1 — RACK 1 = 72
V4 O1 L1 T1 A1 G2 E1 — RACK 2 = 61
N1 A1 T1 I1 V4 E1 S1 — RACK 3 = 80
C3 H4 O1 P3 I1 N1 S1 — RACK 4 = 64
PAR SCORE 180-190 — JUDD'S TOTAL 277

JUMBLE®

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SYATT
CHETF
RIOING
NMMTEO

THE SHOE STORE WENT OUT OF BUSINESS BECAUSE NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: POUND BLESS HAPPEN UPDATE
Answer: He didn't make a very good archaeologist because he was a — BONEHEAD

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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HITORI-3271

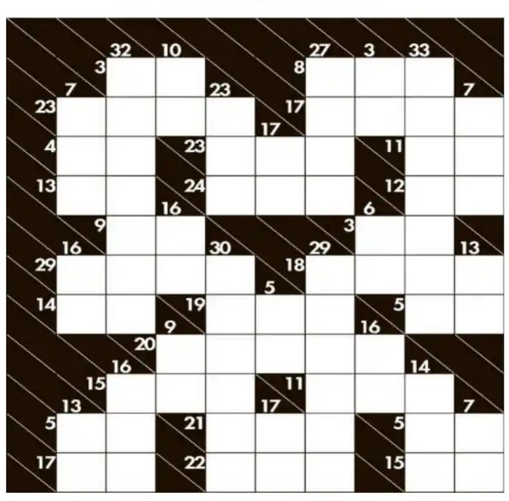
5	4	3	2	5	6	5	1
5	2	1	7	5	1	4	3
3	8	4	5	2	5	1	5
1	3	8	3	5	7	5	7
5	5	6	5	1	5	8	7
4	5	2	1	8	3	5	6
2	3	1	5	6	5	7	5
8	5	7	7	4	5	3	2

SOLUTION TO 3270

7	■	4	6	■	3	8	■
2	4	8	■	6	5	■	7
5	■	1	2	7	■	3	6
■	8	7	4	3	1	2	■
4	7	6	■	2	■	5	3
6	2	■	7	1	8	■	5
■	5	3	■	8	2	1	4
3	6	■	1	5	■	4	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

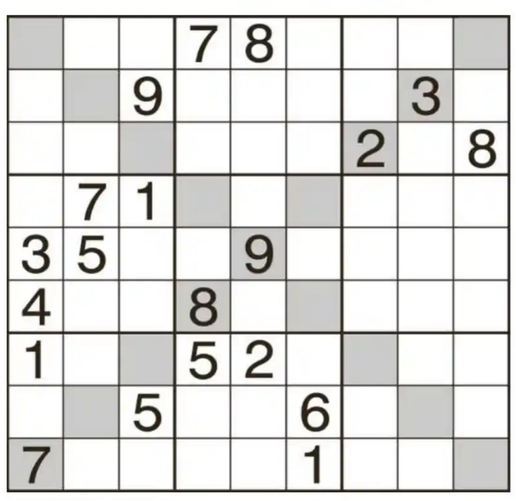
KAKURO- 3271



SOLUTION TO 3270

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3812



SOLUTION TO 3811

4	1	8	2	5	9	3	6	7
9	5	7	6	3	4	1	2	8
3	2	6	7	8	1	5	4	9
2	9	5	1	6	8	7	3	4
6	7	3	4	9	5	2	8	1
8	4	1	3	7	2	9	5	6
7	3	4	9	2	6	8	1	5
5	6	9	8	1	3	4	7	2
1	8	2	5	4	7	6	9	3

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ರಾಯಚೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ

E-mail:itstaff_ulb_raichura@yahoo.com Website:-www.raichurcity.gov.in
Phone No:08532-226768 Fax No:08532-226316

ಸಂ:ರಾಮಪ/ಎಸ್.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ.ಎಂ/ಮ.ನಿ/01/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27-01-2026.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2.0 ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ).

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ತೋರಿಸಿದ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2.0 ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು / ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು WWW.KPPP.Karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಹಾಗೂ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26-02-2026 ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27-02-2026 ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.raichurcity.mrc.gov .in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಅನುದಾನದ ವಿವರ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ
1	ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ	Selection of agency to support door to door collection and transportation of segregated waste, public awareness, behavior change, including stakeholder and officers training to make Raichur city garbage free and achieve better ranking (As a Pilot Project for 15 Wards of The City) **Estimate Cost Rs. 3,64,00,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/ SE7146

DIP/RCR/683/KSMCA/686/2025-26

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ರಾಯಚೂರು.

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ

ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

ದೂ: 080-27833730 E-Mail: itstaff_ulb_hebbagodi@yahoo.com | Website: www.hebbagodicity.mrc.gov.in

ಸಂ:ಹೆ.ನ.ಸ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಟೆ.ನೋ/ಸಿಆರ್/22/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.01.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **21 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ** ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ 2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. 1 ರಿಂದ 21 ರವರೆಗಿನ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ:31.01.2026** ರಿಂದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:17.02.2026**ರಂದು **ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ** ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸೂಚನಾ ಫಲಕದಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದು. ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ **ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 21.15 ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.41.34 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.**

1	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54423	2	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54432
3	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54463	4	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54464
5	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54465	6	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54466
7	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54467	8	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54468
9	DMA/2025-26/BR/WORK_INDENT54469	10	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54472
11	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT54473	12	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54474
13	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54475	14	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54476
15	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54477	16	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54478
17	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54479	18	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54480
19	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT54481	20	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54484
21	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54485		

ಸಹಿ/- ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸುಜಾತ ಹರೀಶ್ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.
ಸಹಿ/- ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸುಜಾತ ಕೆ.ಪಿ. ರಾಜು ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜಿಎ/ 5275/2025-26
ಸಹಿ/- ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ ಜಯರಾಮ್ ಸ್ಥಾಯಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.
ಸಹಿ/- ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಬಿ.ಎಲ್, ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ

ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: aeerdwsd.ydg@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 08473-250271

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಗ್ರಾಕುನೀಮತ್ತುನೈ/ವಿಯಾ/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/ತಾಶಾ/KKRDB(Micro)/2025-26/1284 ದಿನಾಂಕ:22/01/2026

ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್" ಮೂಲಕ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕುಮೆಂಟ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ- 1 , 2 & 3 ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ನಿಯಮಗಳು, G.O.No.FD 9 PCL 2004 Dt:06.08.2005 ಹಾಗೂ ಇತ್ತೀಚ್ಚಿನ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ, ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜೀನಿಯರರು, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಇವರು 2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ KKRDB (Micro) ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರುಗಳಿಂದ ನಿಶ್ಚಿತ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಹೆಸರನ್ನು ನಮೂದಿಸಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿವೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು

1. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕುಮೆಂಟ್ಸ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ: ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ/ ಡೌನ್ ಲೊಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳೂವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 22/01/2026. ಸಮಯ : ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ 2) ಆನ್ ಲೈನ್‌ಲ್ಲಿ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 31/01/2026. ಸಮಯ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ 3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 02/02/2026 ಸಮಯ : ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ 4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 05/02/2026 ಸಮಯ : ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಕೆಲಸ ಹೆಸರು	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಕೆಲಸ ಮುಗಿಸುವ ಅವಧಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ)	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿಗಳು
1	ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ದೋರನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಹಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಘಟಕ (RO Plant) ಮತ್ತು ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	9736	15.00	37500/-	90 ದಿನಗಳು	4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು	GENERAL
2	ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ದೋರನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಘಟಕ (RO Plant) ಮತ್ತು ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	9735	15.00	18750/-	90 ದಿನಗಳು	4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು	SC Reserve
3	ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಖಾನಾಪೂರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಹಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಘಟಕ (RO Plant) ಮತ್ತು ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	9737	15.00	37500/-	90 ದಿನಗಳು	4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು	GENERAL
4	ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಬೀರನೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಹಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಘಟಕ (RO Plant) ಮತ್ತು ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	9734	15.00	37500/-	90 ದಿನಗಳು	4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು	GENERAL
5	ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಶಿವಪೂರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಹಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಘಟಕ (RO Plant) ಮತ್ತು ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	9738	15.00	18750/-	90 ದಿನಗಳು	4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು	SC Reserve
6	ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಬಿಳ್ಹಾರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಹಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಘಟಕ (RO Plant) ಮತ್ತು ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	9739	15.00	37500/-	90 ದಿನಗಳು	4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು	CAT-II(A)
7	ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಬೆಂಡೆಬೆಂಬಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಮಾದರಿ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಘಟಕ (RO Plant) ಮತ್ತು ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	9740	15.00	37500/-	90 ದಿನಗಳು	4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು	GENERAL
8	ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ತುಮಕೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಹಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಘಟಕ (RO Plant) ಮತ್ತು ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	9741	15.00	37500/-	90 ದಿನಗಳು	4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು	CAT-II(A)
9	ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಹೊಸಕೇರಾ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಪೈಪ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು	9744	15.00	37500/-	90 ದಿನಗಳು	4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು	GENERAL
10	ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಅಲ್ದಾಳ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಏರು ಕೊಳವೆ ಮಾರ್ಗ (ರೈಸಿಂಗ್ ಮೇನ್ ಪೈಪ್‌ಲೈನ್) ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು.	9742	25.22	25220/-	90 ದಿನಗಳು	3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು	ST Reserve
11	ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಸಲ್ದಾಪೂರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಏರು ಕೊಳವೆ ಮಾರ್ಗ (ರೈಸಿಂಗ್ ಮೇನ್ ಪೈಪ್‌ಲೈನ್) ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು.	9743	30.00	60000/-	90 ದಿನಗಳು	3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು	GENERAL
12	ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಉಕ್ಕಿನಾಳ ರಾಮಚಂದ್ರ ನಾಯಕ ತಾಂಡಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಪೈಪ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು.	9748	30.00	60000/-	90 ದಿನಗಳು	3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು	GENERAL
13	ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಸಾದ್ಯಾಪೂರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಏರು ಕೊಳವೆ ಮಾರ್ಗ (ರೈಸಿಂಗ್ ಮೇನ್ ಪೈಪ್‌ಲೈನ್) ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು.	9749	25.10	50200/-	90 ದಿನಗಳು	3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು	GENERAL
14	ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಹತ್ತಿಗುಡೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಮಠದ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಇರುವ ಎಸ್.ಸಿ ವಾರ್ಡಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಓ.ಹೆಚ್.ಟಿ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	9746	75.00	150000/-	120 ದಿನಗಳು	3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು	GENERAL
15	ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಶೇಟ್ಟಿಕೇರಾ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಎಸ್.ಸಿ ವಾರ್ಡಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಓ.ಹೆಚ್.ಟಿ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮತ್ತು ಪೈಪ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು.	9747	60.00	120000/-	120 ದಿನಗಳು	3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು	GENERAL

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/498/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.&ಎ/2025-26

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No: DGM-3/BSWML/PR /757/2025-26 Date: 29.01.2026

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Name of the Work:	Conducting training and capacity building to strengthen institutional capacity, enhance skills and foster best practices under SBM 2.0.

1. Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited invites EOI from Swachhtha Knowledge Partners empanelled by MOHUA or any other qualified bidder. **2.** This EOI is invited only for obtaining market rates to prepare the estimates. **3.** The details of the EOI can be downloaded from the Government of Karnataka Public Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** from **30.01.2026. 4.** Last date (deadline) to receive the response is: **07.02.2026 upto 4.00 PM** through KPPP portal. **5.** Date of opening of responses is **08.02.2026** after **4.30 PM** through KPPP portal.**6.** The Right to Accept/Reject an any or all responses received is reserved with the Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML without assigning any reasons thereof.

DIPR/CP/5283/Shirdi Sai/2025-26

Sd/- Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, Kumta (U.K.)

Phone No: 08386 222058 E-mail : apmckumata@gmail.com, apmckumata@rediffmail.com

No.:AMD/APMC/Kumta /Dev./571 /2025-2026 Date: 28-01-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited in the KPPP Portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for thd following below works as per the KW documents at main market yard APMC kumta.

Sl. No	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender. (In Rupees)	EMD. (In Rupees)	E-Procurement processing Fee (In Rupees)	Completion period excluding raining season	Eligible Class of Contractor's
1	Construction of C C Road in front of Post Office at Main Market Yard of APMC KUMTA	82,31,984.00	1,64,700	As per E Portal	6 months	PWD Registered Eligible Civil Contractor
2	Construction Compound wall & Toilet Block at Main market yard of APMC KUMTA	47,14,378.00	94,300	As per E Portal	6 months	PWD Registered Eligible Civil Contractor

TENDER DOCUMENTS DOWNLOADED FROM Date: **03-02-2026 to 23-02-2026 16.30 hours**, LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMITING THE TENDERS Date: **23-02-2026 16.30 hours**, TIME AND DATE OF OPENING OF COVER ONE OF TENDERS Date: **25-02-2026 11.30** TIME AND DATE OF OPENING OF COVER TWO OF TENDERS Date: **06-03-2026, 11.30 hours,** PRE BID MEETING Date: **09-02-2026 11.00 hours,** PLACE OF PRE BID MEETING: A.P.M.C. KUMTA

Details contact in **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** website. And the Secretary, A.P.M.C. KUMTA in working hours.

Sd/-, SECRETARY, A.P.M.C., Kumta **Sd/-, Administrator, A.P.M.C., Kumta**

DIPR/KWR//KSMCA1001/25-26 Dt.29.01.2026

ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ

ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಶಿವಗಂಗೋತ್ರಿ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ-577007.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08192-208029

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ದಾವಿಃಅಭಿಃ1093/2025-26/4627 ದಿನಾಂಕಃ 28.01.2026

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.
Tender Name:-1) Tender for Supply and Installation of RFID Technology Based Automation of Library
Tender No: DU/2025-26/IND0034,
ಇವುಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ (ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ) ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999, ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಇ-Portal Tender ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:11.02.2026 ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ website:-www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಹಾಗೂ ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ, ಶಿವಗಂಗೋತ್ರಿ, - ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ದೂ.ಸಂ:08192-208029 ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/687/ ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

ಸಹಿ/- ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ, ಶಿವಗಂಗೋತ್ರಿ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD

Office of the Registrar, Krishinagar, Dharwad - 580005.
Phone No: 0836-2214204(O) E-mail : registrar@uasd.in

No: R/Acad/Affln./BoM-78/2025-26 Date: 23-01-2026

NOTIFICATION

Sub: Inviting Applications for affiliation of New College - reg.

Ref.: 1) University Notification No. ಕುಸ:ನೇವಿ:ವ್ಯಮಂ-78.13/2024-25, **dated: 02.01.2025.**

2) University Notification No. ಕುಸ:ಶೈವಿ:**Affln./2025/932-F, dated: 06.10.2025.**

3) Proceedings of the Staff Meeting of Officers of UAS, Dharwad held on 13.01.2026.

4) Approval of the Vice-Chancellor, UAS, Dharwad.

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad invites fresh applications for affiliation to **Start New College of Agriculture / Agribusiness Management / Forestry / Community Science from eligible Institutions,** as per the guidelines provided in Annexure-1 & 2, in the prescribed pro-forma provided in Annexure-3. The guidelines, pro-forma, UAS Act, 2009 and ICAR Model Act (Revised 2023) are uploaded on the University Website: **(www.uasd.edu)** for reference.
The Last Date for Submission of Filled-in Applications is **19-02-2026.**
The Office of the Registrar, UAS, Dharwad (E-mail: **registrar@uasd.in**, Telephone: **0836-2214204**) may be contacted for further details.

DIPR/Dharwad/1156/Adverto/2025-26

Sd/- REGISTRAR

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works:

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/JE-1/F-393(6)/25-26/5063-66 Date: 27.01.2026

1) Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/Cir-South/EE(O)/AEE-2/ JE-1/25-26/EPR-21 CALL-2 Dated: 12.12.2025 for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of 66kV class HV Bushing for Power Transformers at various sub-stations pertaining to Tr(Op) Circle-South KPTCL Bengaluru conforming to Technical Specifications. F.O.R.D at Store/Site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading.

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/JE-1/F-321(6)/25-26/5078-80 Date: 29.01.2026

2) Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/Cir-South/EE(O)/AEE-2/ JE-1/25-26/EPR-21 CALL-2 Dated: 12.12.2025 Replacement of age old 66kV Pneumatic Circuit Breaker and C&R Panel of 66KV Capacitor Bank at 220KV R/S Hoody. pertaining to Tr (Op) Circle-South, Bengaluru on Total Turnkey basis including supply of all matching materials/equipment including supply of 66kV Breakers and erection (including civil works) of all materials/equipment, testing and commissioning-on percentage basis.

The Bids will be received through e-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **30.01.2026.**

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer (Ele.), Transmission (Op) Circle-South, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-09.**

Government of Karnataka

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.

No. EE/PWD/HSN/J.E-3/2025-26/ DATED: 27.01.2026

SERVICE TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 35/2025-26, Dated: 27.01.2026

Service Tender is invited by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Standard Tender Document KC-6 from the eligible registered Contractor/Firm through E-procurement for 07 Work, coming under PWD, Hassan Division. The Service Tender minimum tender amount is Rs.27.00 lakhs and maximum tender amount Rs.56.70 lakhs Last date of Receipt of tender is 06.02.2026 till 4.00pm. For more details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.inor contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Hassan Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/992/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

Government of Karnataka

KARNATAKA MONITORING AND EVALUATION AUTHORITY

542, 5th Floor, 2nd Stage, MS Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore – 560 001. Phone No: 080 22353938, 22032561,
E-mail: **kmeagok@karnataka.gov.in**; Website: **www.kmea.karnataka.gov.in**

No: KMEA 49 ADMN 2024 (P-2) Dated:29.01.2026

NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Monitoring and Evaluation Authority invites applications from competent and qualified personnel on contract basis for the post of Research Fellows - 07 Nos for a period of one year extendable up to two years based on performance.
Age Limit: 45 Years and below as on the date of this Notification.
The last date for submission of application/s is **16.02.2026 before 17.30 hrs.** For further details, (Qualification, Remuneration etc.,) and Application form visit KMEA website **https://kmea.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/5282/ NR/2025-26

Sd/- Administrative Officer Karnataka Monitoring and Evaluation Authority

Government of Karnataka

1 KARNATAKA GIRLS BATTALION NCC (NATIONAL CADET CORPS)

Mysore Road, Satellite Bus Stand, BENGALURU – 560 026

No: 602/Accts/RDC/2026 Dated: 23/01/2026

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sealed Quotations are invited for provision of Dinner for the Deputy Director General, NCC Function for 750 members including NCC Cadets, Parents and Guests. Awardees will be attending the function at JNC College, Koramangala, Bengaluru on 04 Feb 2026.
The details of Dinner (Menu) can be obtained from 1 KARNATAKA GIRLS BATTALION NCC ((NATIONAL CADET CORPS), Mysore Road, Satellite Bus Stand, BENGALURU – 560 026. (Mobile : 9622526622) from **30.01.2026 to 02.02.2026 between 1200hrs to 1700hrs.**

a) Last date of submission of quotation: before 1200hrs on **02.02.2026**
b) The date of opening of tender: 1300 hrs on **03.02.2026.**

DIPR/CP/5279/AKAR/2025-26

Sd/- Commanding Officer 1 Kar Girls Bn NCC Bengaluru

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, BSCC, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru–560011

No.: EE/ELE/BSCC/TEND/03/2025-26 Date: 29.01.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Short Term Tender) (Through KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (Elect), Bengaluru South City Corporation, invites tenders in accordance with KTPP Rules 2000, from eligible contractors registered in KPWD / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any other equivalent Central / State Government Organizations for Electrical work as detailed in the table.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Annual Electrical maintenance of buildings coming under Jayanagara Assembly Constituency in Ward No. 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187 (2nd Call). **Est Cost (in Lakhs): 20.00, Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.): 25,000.00, Category: CAT-II(A).**
2	Annual maintenance of all telephones, broad band systems and other peripherals in BBMP South Zonal Complex building 2nd Block Jayanagara in Ward No. 163 (2nd Call). **Est Cost (in Lakhs): 2.50, Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.): 3,125.00, Category: ST.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement Portal from: **30.01.2026. (2)** Bids must be submitted online through the e-procurement portal on or before **07.02.2026** by **4:00 p.m. (3)** The tenders will be opened on **09.02.2026** at **11:30 a.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele), Bengaluru South City Corporation

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ. ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ. ಮೌಲಾನಾ ಆಜಾದ್ ಭವನ, ಕೆರೆಯಂಗಳ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ-571402, ದೂ-08232-297240.

ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ : dommandya@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಅಸಂಕಇ(2)/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ-ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್-20/2025-26.
ದಿನಾಂಕ:23.01.2026.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

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US warns of China's growing manufacturing dominance

BEIJING, AP/PTI: The top US envoy to China called Thursday for fair and reciprocal trade between the world's two largest economies and expressed concern about projections that China's dominance of global manufacturing will grow even further in the years to come.

US Ambassador David Perdue told business and government leaders in Beijing that China should be congratulated on becoming a manufacturing powerhouse, but echoed fears in Europe and elsewhere that China's exports pose a threat to factories and jobs in other countries. "This is not healthy for the rest of the world," he said in remarks to an annual dinner of the American Chamber of Commerce in China.

Perdue was appointed by US President Donald Trump, who has imposed tariffs on imports from China and many other countries in a bid to reindustrialise and boost factory jobs in the United States. China responded with tariffs on imports from the US. An ensuing tit-for-tat spiral drove tariffs sky-high before the two sides agreed to a series of 90-day truces. In late October, both countries agreed to a one-year pause when Trump met Chinese leader Xi Jinping in South Korea during a gathering of Asia-Pacific nations.

UK, China seek strategic partnership amid uncertainty

Starmer, Xi call for closer cooperation as trade and security concerns persist

BEIJING, AP/PTI

The leaders of Britain and China on Thursday called for a "comprehensive strategic partnership" to deepen ties between their nations at a time of growing global turbulence and uncertainty.

Neither Prime Minister Keir Starmer nor President Xi Jinping publicly mentioned Donald Trump, but the US president's challenge to the post-Cold War order was clearly on their minds.

"I think that working together on issues like climate change and global stability during challenging times for the world is precisely what we should be doing as we build this relationship in the way that I've described," Starmer told Xi at the start of their meeting in Beijing.

The two leaders met for 80 minutes — double the scheduled time — in the Great Hall of the People as their countries seek to improve relations after several years of acrimony. Ties have deteriorated over allegations of Chinese spying in Britain, China's support for Russia in the Ukraine war, and the crackdown on freedoms in Hong Kong, the former British colony returned to China in 1997. Starmer is the first British prime minister to visit China in eight years.

Xi said that "China-UK relations experienced setbacks in previous years, which was not in the interests of either country". "In the current turbulent and ever-changing international situation, China and the UK need to strengthen dialogue and cooperation to maintain world peace and stability," he said.

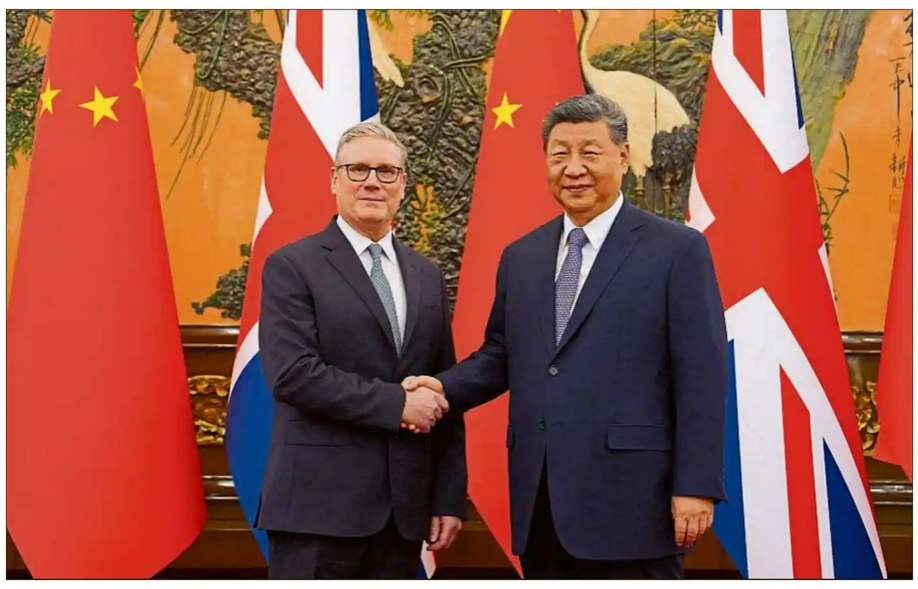
Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said Xi stressed, without mentioning the US directly, that "major powers" must adhere to international law or the world would regress into a "jungle".

After the meeting, Starmer said the leaders had made "really good progress" on issues including reducing Chinese tariffs on Scotch whisky and introducing visa-free travel for British visitors.

"The relationship is in a good place, a strong place," the British leader said.

Xi appeared to acknowledge criticism faced by Starmer for reaching out to China despite national security and human rights concerns. The UK recently approved controversial plans for a large Chinese embassy in London, removing a sticking point in relations but also overriding fears that the "mega-embassy" could facilitate espionage and intimidation of dissidents.

"Good things often come with difficulties," Xi said. "As long as it is the right thing to do in accordance with the fundamental interests of the country and its people, leaders will not shy away from difficulties and will forge ahead bravely."



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer with Chinese President Xi Jinping ahead of a bilateral meeting in Beijing on Thursday. REUTERS

XI JINPING
Chinese president

"In the current turbulent and ever-changing international situation, China and the UK need to strengthen dialogue and cooperation to maintain world peace and stability.

MUTUAL BENEFITS

- Visa-free entry for British passport holders for stays of up to 30 days.
- Whisky tariffs on UK exports to China cut to 5%
- Two countries to target supply chains used by migrant smugglers

WORLD AT A GLANCE

An aerial view shows a part of a giant landslide in Niscemi, Sicily, on Thursday. A large area of the town of Niscemi is declared "red zone" after the a 4km-long stretch of the hillside collapsed on January 25. AFP

Explosions, heavy gunfire heard overnight near Niger's airport

There were loud explosions and heavy gunfire overnight into Thursday morning near the main airport in Niger's capital, Niamey, residents said, leading to fears of a likely attack by armed groups in the conflict-hit country, AP/PTI reports from Niamey.

Videos that appear to be from the scene captured loud blasts and the sky glowing following explosions that began around midnight and lasted about two hours in the area of Diori Hamani International Airport, a key hub for the Nigerien military. The Associated Press could not independently verify the videos that also showed military trucks and fires. It was not immediately confirmed what led to the explosions and gunshots or if there were casualties or damage. One resident said he learned that gunmen attacked the airport but were repelled by soldiers. The resident, who lives in the airport district, spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of his life. The AP could not independently verify the resident's account. By Thursday morning, calm had returned to the city and there was heavy security presence along major roads leading to the airport.

Hasina denounces B'desh polls

From her exile in India, Bangladesh's ousted leader Sheikh Hasina has slammed the country's upcoming election after her party was barred from the polls, remarks that could deepen tensions ahead of the pivotal vote next month, AP/PTI reports from Dhaka.

Hasina, who was sentenced to death for her crackdown on a student uprising in 2024 that killed hundreds of people and led to the toppling of her 15-year rule, warned in an email last week that without inclusive and free and fair elections, Bangladesh will face prolonged instability. She also claimed that Bangladesh's interim government led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus deliberately disenfranchised millions of her supporters.

China executes 11 members of Myanmar-based scam syndicate

BANGKOK, AP/PTI: China executed 11 members of a Myanmar-based family crime syndicate that killed 14 Chinese citizens and ran scam and gambling operations worth more than $1 billion, authorities said.

The Wenzhou city Intermediate People's Court announced the execution in a statement Thursday morning. It sentenced the 11 people to death in September. They included Ming Guoping and Ming Zhenzhen, who the court found led the scam and gambling operations, as well as key group members Zhou Weichang, Wu Hongming and Luao Jianzhang.

The group filed an appeal that was rejected by the court in November.

The family members were detained in November 2023 when Chinese authorities exerted pressure on authorities in the border areas shared with Myanmar to crack down on scams.

Scam parks have become an industrial-scale business in Southeast Asia, especially Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, where a mix of trafficked and willing labour have carried out digital scams on victims around the world.

Authorities in the region face growing international pressure from China, the US and other nations to address the proliferation of criminal activity.

Iran launches mass arrests to prevent new protests

Plainclothes forces raid homes across country, say activists

DUBAI, REUTERS

Plainclothes Iranian security forces have rounded up thousands of people in a campaign of mass arrests and intimidation to deter further protests after crushing the bloodiest unrest since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, sources said.

Modest protests that began last month in Tehran's Grand Bazaar over economic hardship unleashed long-suppressed wider grievances and swiftly escalated into the gravest existential threat to Iran's Shi'ite theocracy in nearly five decades, with protesters commonly calling for ruling clerics to step down.

Authorities cut internet access and stifled the unrest with overwhelming force that killed thousands, according to rights groups. Tehran blames "armed terrorists" linked to Israel and the US for the violence.

Within days, plainclothes security forces launched a campaign of widespread arrests accompanied by an intensified street presence centred on checkpoints, according to five activists who spoke on condition of anonymity from inside Iran. They said detainees had been placed in secret lockups.

"They are arresting everyone," one activist said. "No one knows where they are being taken or where they are being held. With these arrests and threats, they are trying to inject fear into society."

Similar accounts were given to Reuters by lawyers, medics, witnesses and two Iranian officials speaking on condition of anonymity to avoid retribution by security services. They said the round-ups appeared aimed at preventing any serious revival of protests by spreading fear, just as the clerical establishment faces rising external pressure.

Uncertainty over the possibility of military action against the Islamic Republic has lingered since US President Donald Trump said last week that an "armada" was heading towards the country.

Supporters of the National Council of Resistance of Iran take part in protest against the Islmamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in Brussels on Thursday. AFP

Iran vows 'crushing response'

Iran on Thursday vowed a "crushing response" to any attack after US President Donald Trump warned time was running out for a nuclear deal, AFP reports from Paris. Foes Washington and Tehran have exchanged sharp warnings since a protest wave in Iran led Trump to threaten military action over a violent crackdown. Meanwhile, the EU on Thursday agree to put Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) on the bloc's "terrorist list".

Pakistan's military undergoing major transformation, says Munir

ISLAMABAD, PTI

Pakistan's military is undergoing a major transformation across multiple domains, Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir said on Thursday, reaffirming that it remains fully prepared to defend the country's territorial integrity against all threats.

Munir made the remarks during a visit to Bahawalpur Garrison, where he was briefed on various operational, training and administrative aspects of the Corps, with a special focus on preparations for multi-domain warfare, according to a statement issued by the army. While addressing the troops, Munir lauded their high morale, professional competence and operational preparedness.

Munir, who is also the army chief, reaffirmed that the armed forces remain fully prepared to defend Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity against all threats, emphasising the need to maintain optimum readiness to meet the requirements of future battlefield and security challenges. "COAS & CDF highlighted that Pakistan Armed Forces are undergoing major transformation in multiple domains," the army said.

"In future, technological manoeuvres will replace physical manoeuvres and will fundamentally alter the way offensive and defensive operations are undertaken. Therefore, the Pakistan Armed Forces are embracing and absorbing technology at a rapid pace. In this process innovation, indigenisation and adaptation shall remain fundamental," he said.

Munir also witnessed a high-intensity Field Exercise "Steadfast Resolve," at Khairpur Tamewali, encompassing integration of niche technologies like unmanned aerial systems, advanced surveillance assets, Electronic Warfare assets and modern command-and-control mechanisms. Earlier, he inaugurated the ROHI eSkills Learning Hub aimed at promoting digital skills and learning opportunities for students, particularly from southern Punjab and across the country.

ABSORBING TECH

- The Pakistan Armed Forces are embracing and absorbing technology at a rapid pace, with innovation, indigenisation and adaptation remaining fundamental to the process.

Farmers march with their tractors during a protest against the EU-Mercosur trade deal in Valladolid, Spain, on Thursday. AFP

Thief held over Indian artefacts

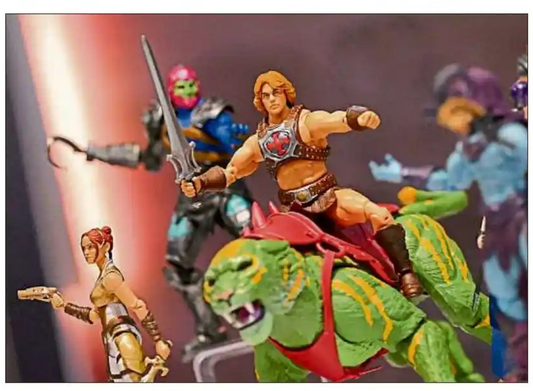
A 41-year-old man was arrested on Thursday as part of an ongoing investigation into theft at a museum in south-west England involving several artefacts from India, PTI reports from London.

The Avon and Somerset Police said the man was arrested on suspicion of handling stolen goods after over 600 "high value" items were stolen from Bristol Museum's British Empire and Commonwealth collection in September last year. The arrest follows the release of CCTV footage by the police of four white male suspects last month. "A 41-year-old man has been arrested in connection with an ongoing investigation into the theft of museum artefacts in Bristol," police said.

Mattel builds He-Man movie buzz

Mattel launched a new line of action figures on Thursday for its upcoming live-action movie "Masters of the Universe", aiming to repeat the success of its 2023 smash hit "Barbie", Reuters reports from Nuremberg.

The toymaker has more than a dozen movies in development as it looks to reinvigorate its brands and spur demand. "Masters of the Universe" is Mattel's second major theatrical release after "Barbie", which grossed more than $1.4 billion worldwide and won an Academy Award. The toy launch builds on momentum from the new movie's first teaser trailer, released last week, which has since racked up more than 30 million YouTube views. Roberto Stanichi, Mattel's chief global brand officer, said there was a lot of nostalgia for a toy line that first came out in the 1980s. "So we've been waiting for the right moment to bring it back in a way that really delivers on the legacy", he said.



Mattel releases new Master of the Universe toy line at Nuremberg Toy Fair in Nuremberg, Germany. REUTERS

Putin agreed not to attack Kyiv for a week: Trump

WASHINGTON, AFP

US President Donald Trump said Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin agreed to halt attacks on Kyiv and other cities for a week, as Moscow's strikes leave Ukraine facing its toughest winter since the start of the war.

Russian strikes on Ukraine's power infrastructure have left millions with disrupted light, heating and water supplies in freezing temperatures, pushing the war-battered country towards a humanitarian crisis.

"Because of the cold, extreme cold... I personally asked President Putin not to fire on Kyiv and the cities and towns for a week during this," Trump told a cabinet meeting at the White House. "It's extraordinary. It's not just like cold, it's extraordinary cold. Record setting cold, over there too, they are having the same, it's a big pile of bad weather," added Trump, comparing it to a current cold snap in Washington. "They've never experienced cold like that. And I personally asked President Putin not to fire into Kyiv and the various towns for a week. And he agreed to do that, and I have to tell you, it was very nice."

There was no immediate reaction from the Kremlin but Trump — whose summit in Alaska with the Russian leader last August ended without a breakthrough — said he trusted Putin to honour the agreement.

Ukraine's state weather agency on Thursday forecast a drastic dip in temperatures to as low as minus 30C in coming days as authorities race to restore services. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had warned of fresh Russian attacks.

US President Donald Trump holds a cabinet meeting at the White House in Washington DC on Thursday. AFP

Russia invites Zelenskyy to Moscow

The Kremlin said on Thursday that Russia reiterated its invitation for Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to visit Moscow for peace talks, Reuters reports from Moscow. Kremlin spokesperson said Moscow has not yet received a response.

Denmark hails 'very constructive' talks with US

COPENHAGEN, AFP: Denmark's foreign minister said Thursday he was "more optimistic" after technical talks kicked off with the United States over Greenland.

"We have had the very first meeting at senior official level in Washington yesterday regarding the Greenlandic issue," Lars Lokke Rasmussen said at an EU meeting in Brussels. "It went well in a very constructive atmosphere and tone, and new meetings are planned. It's not that things are solved, but it's good."

The trilateral talks come after US President Donald Trump last week backed down from his threats to seize the autonomous Arctic territory of EU and Nato member Denmark. "There was a major detour. Things were escalating, but now we are back on track," Rasmussen said. "I'm slightly more optimistic today than a week ago."

Meanwhile, the Danish royal house also announced Thursday that King Frederik X would travel to Greenland on February 18 to show his "concern" for the island's inhabitants. Trump's threats over Greenland plunged the transatlantic alliance into its deepest crisis in years.

The unpredictable US leader backed off his desire to take control of Greenland after saying he had struck a "framework" deal with NATO chief Mark Rutte to ensure greater American influence.

But few concrete details appear to have been agreed — with authorities in Denmark and Greenland refusing to discuss handing over any sovereignty. "I have stated on many occasions, we, of course, share the US security concerns regarding the Arctic, this is something we want to solve in close cooperation," Rasmussen said.

Kyrgyzstan bans animal products from India amid Nipah scare

MOSCOW, PTI: The Central Asian republic of Kyrgyzstan has banned animals and animal products from India and has tightened screening of arrivals at its international airports in the capital Bishkek and second largest city of Osh amid Nipah virus scare.

"We have introduced strict infection control measures for all passengers arriving on international flights to Bishkek and Osh due to the virus currently spreading in India," Russia's TASS news agency reported.

According to the press service of the Kyrgyz Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture, and Food Processing Industry, the measures have been implemented in response to the outbreak of the Nipah virus in India.

ECONOMIC SURVEY 2025-26 : Gold soars past Rs 1.8 lakh per 10 grams; silver above Rs 4 lakh a kg

Govt delivers 122.06 lakh houses under PMAY-U till Nov

BENGALURU, DHNS : The government has undertaken multiple interventions to support affordable housing in urban areas. These include direct tax and GST benefits, inclusion in priority-sector lending, which enables higher loan-to-value ratios and therefore smaller downpayments, and provision of infrastructure status, amongst others, the Economic Survey 2025-26 said.

Under the two phases of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U), a total of 122.06 lakh houses have been sanctioned, of which 96.02 lakh houses have been completed/delivered to the beneficiaries across the country, as on November 24, 2025.

The Survey noted that in many cities, affordable housing increasingly appears in peripheral areas due to lower land costs and easier access to large plots. "Developers often move projects to the outskirts to keep prices attractive for low and middle-income buyers, as land acquisition is simpler. However, these areas lack infrastructure, including poor connectivity to employment centres," it said.

Gold, silver prices to rise further amid global uncertainties: Survey

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The record run in gold and silver prices is likely to continue in the coming months due to their sustained demand as safe-haven investments amid global uncertainties, as per the Economic Survey tabled in Parliament by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold crossed past Rs 1.8 lakh per 10 grams for the first time, while silver set a new record of Rs 4 lakh per kg. The price of the yellow metal has doubled in the past one year. It has jumped by around 30% this month.

"The prices of precious metals, both gold and silver, are likely to continue increasing due to their sustained demand as safe-haven investments amid global uncertainties, unless a durable peace is established and trade wars are resolved," the annual Survey report noted.

"Some commentators feel that the torrid pace set by gold and silver in 2025 may not be sustained," it added.

Gold price jumped from $2,607 per ounce at the beginning of 2025 to $4,315 per ounce by the end of the 2025 calendar year. It soared past $5,600 per ounce on Thursday, while silver jumped above $120 per ounce in the international market. Silver price has surged by 74% so far this year.

According to the Economic Survey, the surge in gold price reflects a weakening US dollar, expectations of persistently negative real rates, and the market's growing assessment of geopolitical and financial tail risks.

However, the Survey noted that other commodity prices would remain soft in the 2026-27 financial year.

According to the World Bank's Commodity Prices Outlook released in October 2025, global commodity prices are expected to decline by approximately 7% in FY27, primarily driven by subdued crude oil prices amid oversupply.

Geopolitics may, however, come in the way of this prediction. On the other hand, the prices of base metals, such as iron, copper, and aluminium, are expected to increase moderately. For instance, in copper, both demand pressures (especially given its usage for green technology and data centres) and supply disruptions might keep its price elevated, the Survey noted.

"Despite the Fed keeping rates unchanged as expected, bullion rallied further after the policy statement highlighted concerns over economic growth, reinforcing uncertainty in global markets. This backdrop, along with persistent geopolitical tensions and ongoing US trade tariff pressures, has strengthened safe-haven flows into gold," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst — Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities.

The surge in prices has hit traditional jewellery demands. Volume of gold jewellery consumption in India fell to 430.5 tonnes in 2025, which is 24% lower than the previous year. However, jewellery demand by value was higher by 18% due to the surge in prices.

The Economic Survey noted that a sharp increase in loans against gold jewellery led to the credit growth in 2025.

SAFE-HAVEN BET

According to the Economic Survey, the surge in gold price reflects a weakening US dollar, expectations of persistently negative real rates, and the market's growing assessment of geopolitical and financial tail risks

Gold price jumps from **$2,607** per ounce at the beginning of 2025, to **$4,315** per ounce by CY2025-end

Silver jumps above **$120** per ounce in the international market on Jan 29. Silver prices have surged **74%** so far this year

Volume of gold jewellery consumption in India falls to **430.5 tonnes** in 2025

World Bank's Commodity Prices Outlook expects global commodity prices to decline approx. **7%** in FY27

'Cash transfer schemes shrinking fiscal space'

Survey pegs aggregate spending at Rs 1.7 L cr for FY2026

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Economic Survey 2026 has pointed out that Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) schemes followed by many states is constricting fiscal space, while impacting growth-oriented public spending.

The Survey has pegged the aggregate spending on UCT, especially the ones targeting women, at Rs 1.7 lakh crore for the financial year 2026.

"While these schemes provide immediate income support, their growing scale risks increasing expenditure rigidity and crowding out resources for capital investment, including human capital," the Survey noted. Between FY2023 and FY2026, there has been a five-fold rise in the number of states doling out UCT, despite half of the states being revenue-deficit.

The combined gross fiscal deficit of states rose from 2.6% of GDP in FY22, to 3.2% in FY25, while the combined revenue deficit increased from 0.4% to 0.7% of GDP, indicating continued borrowing to finance revenue expenditure, according to the Survey. Outstanding liabilities, meanwhile, stood at about 28.1% of GDP in FY25.

The Survey says the cash in hand for women does provide them immediate income succour, helping them meet health and personal needs. However, their "rapid scale-up and persistence raise concern about fiscal sustainability", which may in the medium-term impact employment, skill development and human capital.

Such transfers range from 0.19% to 1.25% of GSDP, and can account for as much as 8.26% of total state budgetary expenditure, the Survey noted, citing recent research.

Committed expenditures such as salaries, pensions, interest payments, and subsidies, absorbed about 62% of states' revenue receipts in FY24, leaving limited fiscal room.

"In this context, higher allocations to UCTs involve clear tradeoffs. Unless deficits widen further, additional spending will crowd out resources for critical social and physical infrastructure. But deficits cannot widen any further without causing further deterioration in the overall financial health of the state," the Survey noted.

It cites examples from countries such as Mexico and the Phillipines that have liked UCTs to verifiable actions by benificiaries, advising careful reprioritisation within state budgets, rather than steady expansion of open-ended direct cash transfer schemes.

Digital addiction a significant public health concern: Survey

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Excessive scrolling, short-video compulsion and binge-watching with endless video loops are becoming significant public health concerns. The Economic Survey warns against digital addiction among Indian youth, and calls for providing alternatives to digital spaces.

It suggests that governments and communities should establish youth hubs, particularly in urban slums and rural areas.

Digital addiction is described as addictive behaviour linked to digital devices, including smartphones, the internet, gaming, and social media addiction. It is typically framed as a behavioural pattern of excessive or compulsive engagement with digital devices or online activities that leads to distress and functional impairment, described as persistent, excessive, or obsessive computer and online use, causing impairment in psychology, the Survey noted.

It said digital addiction negatively affects academic performance and workplace productivity due to distractions, sleep debt and reduced focus. Apart from eroding social capital through weaker peer networks, lower community participation, and diminished offline skills, compulsive digital use is also linked to anxiety, stress and sleep disturbances among students.

The WHO has recognised online gaming addiction as a mental health condition under 'Gaming Disorder,' defined by impaired control over gaming, prioritisation of gaming over other activities, and continued play despite negative consequences. Globally, many countries have taken important measures against youth digital addiction. Australia has introduced a nationwide ban on social media accounts for children under 16, and South Korea introduced the 'Shutdown or Cinderella law' in 2011, restricting minors from accessing gaming websites after midnight.

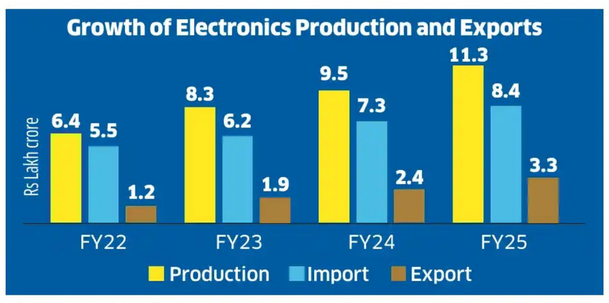
The Survey points out that a major challenge in addressing digital addiction in India is the lack of comprehensive national data on its prevalence and mental health effects. It also suggests that schools should introduce a Digital Wellness Curriculum covering screen-time literacy, cyber safety, and mental health awareness.

Electronics sector on track to become second-largest export segment

BENGALURU, DHNS

In recent years, India's electronics sector has undergone a structural transformation, with the country becoming the third-largest and fastest-growing electronics market in FY25, and this momentum continued in H1FY6, with exports reaching $22.2 billion, said the Economic Survey. Now, the sector is on track to become the second-largest export segment.

The PLI scheme for large-scale electronics manufacturing has generated a cumulative production of about Rs 9.34 lakh crore, exports of Rs 5.12 lakh crore, and investment of Rs 13,759 crore, as of September 2025.



Source: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
Note: Production data is sourced from Industry Association; Import, Export data is sourced from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S)

From a net importer, India has now become the world's second-largest mobile phone manufacturer, as the mobile phone manufacturing segment witnessed a nearly 30-fold increase in production value, rising from Rs 18,000 crore in FY15, to Rs 5.45 lakh crore in FY25. India now hosts over 300 manufacturing units, from just two units in 2014.

Meanwhile, the 'Internet in India Report 2025', jointly prepared by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and KANTAR, which was launched at the India Digital Summit (IDS) on Thursday, highlighted that the country's internet user base has crossed the 950 million-mark in 2025.

According to the report, India now has 958 million Active Internet Users (AIU), marking an 8% year-on-year growth. The report highlights that AI has reached mass adoption in India. About 44% users have engaged with AI-enabled features such as voice search, image-based search, chatbots and AI filters. Usage is highest among younger audiences, with 57% of users aged 15-24 years and 52% of those aged 25-44 years reporting AI usage in the past year.

Stock markets advance on Survey

MUMBAI, PTI: Rising for the third consecutive day, benchmark stock index Sensex advanced 221 points and Nifty settled above 25,400 on Thursday, following a rally in Larsen & Toubro and the Economic Survey projecting the GDP growth of 6.8-7.2% for the next fiscal.

Erasing its early losses, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 221.69 points or 0.27% to settle at 82,566.37. During the morning trade, it tanked 636.74 points or 0.77% to 81,707.94.

The 50-share NSE Nifty edged higher by 76.15 points or 0.30% to end at 25,418.90. The broader index fell 182.95 points or 0.72 per cent to a low of 25,159.80 in early trade.

A rally in global markets and fresh foreign fund inflows helped key indices recover from lows, analysts said.

UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

'India's tourism grows on domestic demand, scope to tap niche segments'

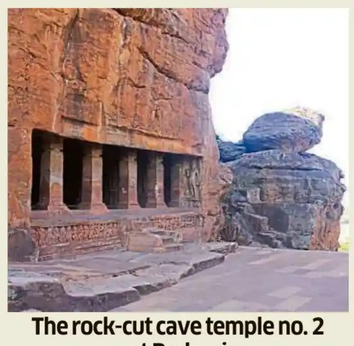
HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE
BENGALURU, DHNS

A significant part of India's tourism potential remains untapped, even as domestic tourism continues to anchor the sector, the Economic Survey said on Thursday.

Overall visits rose about 17.5% in 2024 over the previous year, and by nearly 52.7% during January–September 2025 compared with the corresponding period last year. "International Tourist Arrivals (ITAs), including foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) and arrivals of non-resident Indians (NRIs), rose to 20.57 million, marking an increase of 8.9% over 2023, and 14.8% above pre-pandemic levels (2019)," the Survey said.

However, political turmoil and geopolitical uncertainties in key source markets kept FTAs below pre-pandemic levels, with arrivals declining by about 11.8% during January-October 2025, compared with the same period last year. This trend mirrors broader patterns across the Asia-Pacific region and reflects global growth weakness.

According to Ministry of Tourism estimates, travel and tourism contributed 5.22% to GDP in FY24, nearing pre-pandemic levels, while supporting an estimated 8.46 crore direct and indirect jobs, or around 13.3% of total employment. Forex earnings from tourism rose to $35 billion in 2024, up 8.8% from 2023. Highlighting the sector's labour-intensive nature and strong linkages with transport, hospitality and trade, the Survey noted that "high-frequency hospitality indicators suggest sustained momentum, driven by domestic tourism, with hotel occupancy rates consistently exceeding 60% in recent years."



The rock-cut cave temple no. 2 at Badami

Realising tourism's full potential, however, hinges on implementation capacity at state and local levels. "In recent years, the Centre has strengthened the tourism framework by prioritising experience-based and sustainable destination development," the Survey said, citing initiatives such as Swadesh Darshan 2.0, the Challenge-Based Destination Development programme and continued investments under PRASHAD. These have been complemented by campaigns like 'Dekho Apna Desh' and 'Incredible India', improved visa facilitation and expanded regional air connectivity under UDAN, boosting demand for Tier-2 and 3 destinations. The approach emphasises ease of travel, accommodation, local mobility, cleanliness, safety, service quality, wider use of digital tools and private sector participation.

"Indian airports can aspire to become global aviation hubs by promoting layovers and enhancing the transit experience for international passengers. Sustained global branding and promotion in source destinations will strengthen higher tourism demand," it added.

The Survey reiterated India's untapped potential in niche segments, including long-distance hiking trails comparable to the Appalachian or Camino routes, leveraging ecological diversity, heritage and pilgrimage corridors.

Rupee settles at 91.99 against US dollar

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee settled at its all-time closing low at 91.99 against the US dollar, amid selling pressure from foreign funds and risk-off sentiment in global markets.

Forex traders said the rupee hit its all-time intra-day low of 92 against the US dollar amid geopolitical uncertainty and foreign outflows. Moreover, a surge in crude oil prices weighed on the rupee.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 91.95 and touched an early high of 91.82, but pared gains to touch an intra-day low of 92 against the greenback. The domestic unit eventually settled flat at 91.99. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.07% lower at 96.37.

Brent crude was trading 1.83% lower at $69.64 per barrel in futures trade.

IN BRIEF

Swiggy's Q3 loss widens to Rs 1,065 cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: Food delivery and quick commerce major Swiggy on Thursday reported a widening of its losses for the third quarter ended December at Rs 1,065 crore, as losses from the quick commerce segment continued amid rising advertising and sales expenditure.

The company had reported a loss of Rs 799 crore on a consolidated basis for the corresponding October-December period of the previous fiscal.

Flagging "irrational competition", Swiggy Co-founder and Group CEO Sriharsha Majety said its recent investments into lower consumer-side monetisation have not yielded the desired incremental order-growth, especially at the bottom of the average order value-pyramid; and are being reviewed.

Overall, Swiggy's quick commerce business Instamart posted a Rs 908 crore loss for the third quarter.

During the quarter under review, Swiggy's revenue from operations shot up to Rs 6,148 crore, from Rs 3,993 crore a year ago, a regulatory filing showed. However, its total expenses also increased to Rs 7,298 crore, from Rs 4,898 crore in the comparable third quarter period of the last fiscal.

Tata Motors Q3 net drops 48% to Rs 705 cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: Tata Motors on Thursday said its consolidated net profit declined 48% to Rs 705 crore for the third quarter ended December 2025, hit by one-time provisions for the new labour code and the demerger process.

The commercial vehicle maker had reported a net profit of Rs 1,355 crore in the October-December quarter of the last year. Its total revenue from operations stood at Rs 21,847 crore for the third quarter against Rs 18,819 crore in the year-ago period, Tata Motors said in a statement.

The company stated that exceptional items during the quarter included the impact of the new labour code (Rs 603 crore), demerger (Rs 962 crore) and acquisition cost (Rs 82 crore).

The impact of these and other items stood at Rs 1,600 crore in the consolidated financials, it added.

"Disciplined execution of an agile strategy delivered yet another strong financial performance this quarter, supported by demand tailwinds from GST 2.0 and the festive season," Tata Motors MD and CEO Girish Wagh said. With infrastructure spending accelerating, the company is well-positioned to sustain momentum and drive continued growth, he added.

ITC net up at Rs 5,018 cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: Diversified conglomerate ITC on Thursday reported a marginal increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 5,018 crore for the third quarter ended December 2025.

The company reported a net profit of Rs 5,013 crore for the October-December period of the last fiscal. Its revenue from operations rose to Rs 21,707 crore for the third quarter compared to Rs 20,350 crore in the year-ago period, ITC Ltd said in a regulatory filing.

The company said its board has approved an interim dividend of Rs 6.5 per share of Rs 1 each for the financial year ending on March 31, 2026. The dividend will be paid between February 26, 2026, and February 28, 2026, it added.

MSMEs get Rs 15k cr equity infusion

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Self-Reliant India (SRI) Fund, launched to infuse Rs 50,000 crore as equity funding in micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), has assisted 682 MSMEs by way of investment worth Rs 15,442 crore, as of November 30, 2025. Additionally, the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) assists micro-entrepreneurs by providing margin money subsidies on bank loans.

According to the Economic Survey 2025-26, the programme has been expanded to include project costs and an enhanced scope of activities.

Operational challenges such as delayed payments affect liquidity, especially for micro-suppliers. With a view to address these challenges, the government has made some interventions which include expanding TReDS (Trade Receivables Discounting System) ecosystem and digital invoicing with a reduced monetary limit for onboarding on TReDS for Corporates and CPSEs from Rs 500 crore to a turnover of Rs 250 crore.

MSMEs form the backbone of India's industrial economy, accounting for approximately 35.4% of manufacturing, around 48.58% of exports, and 31.1% of GDP in the country. With over 7.47 crore enterprises employing over 32.82 crore persons, the sector holds its position as the second-largest employer after agriculture. Globally, MSMEs make up about 90% of businesses and are responsible for over 50 per cent of the total global employment. With India's manufacturing sector positioned for greater global integration, MSME sector's role is critical in enabling effective supply-chain participation, fostering local value addition, and supporting inclusive regional growth, the Survey said.

Despite expanding credit footprints and rising digital integration, access to formal credit remains a binding constraint for many micro-enterprises due to limited collateral and documentation readiness, as is generally the case worldwide. This challenge was also highlighted in the World Bank's Financial Sector Assessment Report for India (2025), which noted that 27% of MSMEs identify finance as their biggest obstacle.

Saim Ayub

All-round Ayub headlines Pakistan's comfortable win

LAHORE, AFP: All-rounder Saim Ayub starred in Pakistan's spin-assisted 22-run win over Australia in the first T20 international in Lahore on Thursday.

Ayub top-scored in Pakistan's 168 for the loss of eight wickets with a 22-ball 40 that included two sixes and three fours, while Salman Agha added four sixes and a four in his 27-ball 39.

The tourists managed 146/8 in their 20 overs with spinners taking six wickets for Pakistan.

With the ball, Ayub dismissed Australian openers Matthew Short (five) and Travis Head, who hit two sixes and two fours in his 13-ball 23.

Cameroon Green resisted with a 31-ball 36 but Australia succumbed to spin with Abrar Ahmed taking 2/10 while Mohammad Nawaz and Shadab Khan took a wicket apiece.

Both teams were tuning up for the Twenty20 World Cup starting in India and Sri Lanka from February 7.

Brief scores: Pakistan: 168/8 in 20 overs (Saim Ayub 40, Salman Agha 39; Xavier Bartlett 2-26, Adam Zampa 4-24) bt Australia: 146/8 in 20 overs (Cameron Green 36, Xavier Bartlett 34 n.o.; Saim Ayub 2-29, Abrar Ahmed 2-10). **PoM:** Saim Ayub. **Next Match:** Jan 31 (Lahore).

EFI sends rape accused as coach to Jordan

NEW DELHI, PTI: The naming of rape-accused Col (Retd) Tarsem Singh Warraich for an overseas assignment has yet again brought the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) under the scanner, even as the Sports Ministry, in an unrelated development, has issued a show-cause notice to the federation over prolonged governance and compliance failures.

The immediate controversy centres on EFI's decision to send Tarsem as coach-cum-manager of the Indian team for the International Tent Pegging Federation (ITPF) World Cup Qualifiers in Jordan from January 29-31.

The top two teams will qualify for the finals in November in Jordan.

Tarsem, an executive committee member of EFI, has never competed in a national tent pegging championship and was earlier suspended by the federation in an impersonation-related case from 2022 to 2024.

His selection was censored by the father of a junior rider who wrote to the world governing body ITPF. Giving details, he mentioned that an FIR has been registered against Colonel Tarsem Singh Warraich in Sonepat with regards to a sexual harassment complaint filed by two women.

Glorious King for feature

KOLKATA SELECTIONS

Glorious King, from the stables of Deepesh Narredu and to be ridden by P Trevor, is fancied to win the Governor's Cup, the feature event of the races to be run over a mile on Friday. The first race starts at 1:30 pm.

1. Sniper Handicap - 1600M: Simran's Attitude 1, Power Racer 2, Toussaint 3.
2. Sans Pareil Handicap - 2400M: Garth 1, Sanaya 2, Righteous 3.
3. AB & M Indian Champagne Stakes - 1400M: Saiko 1, Starliner 2, Admiringly 3.
4. Governor's Cup - 1600M: Glorious King 1, King Louis 2, Vincent Van Gogh 3.
5. Castlebridge Handicap - 1200M: Pantazi 1, Roming Home 2. Aperol 3.
6. Awesome One Handicap (Div I) - 1200M: Oishika 1, Clever Hans 2, Sky Hawk 3.
7. Awesome One Handicap (Div II) - 1200M: Most And More 1, Jimmy Bee 2, All Time Legend 3.
Day's best: Pantazi. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. **I treble:** 2, 3, 4. **II treble:** 5, 6, 7.

TENNIS AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Sabalenka roars, Rybakina soars

Top-ranked Belarusian to face world No. 5 Kazakh in final

MELBOURNE, AFP

Belarusian world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka crushed Ukraine's Elina Svitolina in a politically charged Australian Open semi-final on Thursday and faces Elena Rybakina for a third Melbourne title.

There was no handshake after Sabalenka dismantled Svitolina 6-2, 6-3, before Kazakhstan's Rybakina was also a straight-sets winner over Jessica Pegula of the United States.

The ruthless Sabalenka will take some stopping as she pursues a third Melbourne crown in four years.

She is on an 11-match win streak this year, having come into the first major of 2026 on the back of winning the title in Brisbane.

The hard-hitting 27-year-old is into her fourth Australian Open final in a row and is yet to drop a set in 2026.

Sabalenka and Moscow-born fifth seed Rybakina have met 14 times, with the Belarusian winning eight of them.

That includes the Melbourne final in 2023, when Sabalenka fought back to win in three sets.

Ahead of her semifinal clash with 12th seed Svitolina, an announcement was made at Rod Laver Arena that there would be no handshake afterwards, asking fans to "respect" that.

Like other players from Ukraine, Svitolina does not shake hands with opponents from Russia or Moscow's ally Belarus because of the war.

Sabalenka and Svitolina also noticeably kept apart for the pre-match formalities and photos.

After a dominant victory, Sabalenka was close to tears as she reflected on the "dream" life she leads.

She had warm words for Svitolina, saying: "I'm super happy with the win, she's a really tough opponent, she was playing really incredible tennis throughout the whole week."

There was controversy at the start of the fourth game.

With the match on serve, Sabalenka was hit with a hindrance call from the umpire for grunting, triggering a long video review and boos.

A clearly irritated Sabalenka lost the point but recovered her poise and a break of serve early in the second set to surge home.

A reflective Svitolina said the plight of her homeland put the defeat into perspective.

"People are really living horrible and terrifying lives in Ukraine, so I should not be allowed to really be sad because I'm a very, very lucky person," the 31-year-old said.

Rybakina beats Pegula

Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion, was always in control of her semifinal against sixth-seeded Pegula.

But she got nervous at the death, before making her supremacy count in a 6-3, 7-6 (9/7) arm-wrestle over 1hr 40min.

Like Sabalenka, the 26-year-old has not dropped a set at the tournament.

"It was such a battle. It was an epic second set. I'm really glad I managed to win it," said Rybakina.

"I'm really proud that no matter the situation, I was leading, and then, of course, it was very tight, I still stayed there. I was fighting for each point and just happy.

"Overall, it's a lot of positives to take."

Rybakina, who defeated second seed Iga Swiatek in the quarterfinals, is trying to get back on the Grand Slam title board for the first time in three-and-a-half years after winning Wimbledon.

She has been in sizzling recent form, beating Sabalenka to win the WTA Finals in Riyadh in November and winning 19 of her last 20 matches.

Results: Women's semifinal: 1-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) bt 12-Elina Svitolina (Ukr) 6-2, 6-3; 5-Elena Rybakina (Kaz) bt 6-Jessica Pegula (USA) 6-3, 7-6 (7).

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka (left) sailed past Elina Svitolina while world No. 5 Elena Rybakina (right) defeated Jessica Pegula in their respective semifinal matches at the Australian Open in Melbourne on Thursday. REUTERS

Novak Djokovic

Ten-time winner Djokovic geared up for a fight against defending champ Sinner

MELBOURNE, AFP: Novak Djokovic knows all too well the mountain he must scale to capture an elusive record 25th Grand Slam crown, but the Serbian great is not ready to "walk out with a white flag" just yet.

The 38-year-old was gifted passage into an Australian Open semi-final showdown with Jannik Sinner after Lorenzo Musetti retired hurt when in complete control of their last-eight clash, 6-4, 6-3, 1-3.

It followed a free ride through the fourth round when Jakub Mensik withdrew without a ball being hit. His charmed run has pitted the 38-year-old against world number two and double defending champion Sinner in a blockbuster on Rod Laver Arena on Friday.

Djokovic needs to reverse a run of five straight defeats to the Italian to make his 11th Australian Open final, where either Spanish top seed Carlos Alcaraz or German third seed Alexander Zverev awaits.

Djokovic was crushed by Sinner in last year's French Open and Wimbledon semifinals, but remains optimistic he can still pull off an upset.

"I'm creating my own history and I think I've been very clear when I say what my intention is in terms of achievements and objectives and results," said Djokovic, who is into a mind-blowing 55th Grand Slam semifinal.

Ten-time Melbourne winner Djokovic has been trying to move past Margaret Court and clinch a landmark 25th major since his last one at the US Open in 2023.

English clubs call the shots

PARIS, AFP

Liverpool, Manchester City and Barcelona booked last-16 places in the Champions League on Wednesday, as holders Paris Saint-Germain and Real Madrid missed out on the top eight.

Premier League champions Liverpool thrashed Qarabag 6-0 in the eighth and final round of league-phase matches at Anfield to finish third in the 36-team table behind already-qualified Arsenal and Bayern Munich.

They were joined in the last 16 by Tottenham, Barca, Chelsea, Sporting Lisbon and Man City.

But holders PSG will have to go through the knockout play-off round, as they did en route to glory last season, after a 1-1 home draw with Newcastle.

Record 15-time winners Real Madrid also missed out on direct last-16 qualification in a dramatic 4-2 loss at former coach Jose Mourinho's Benfica, who snatched the final play-off spot thanks to a 98th-minute goal from goalkeeper Anatoliy Trubin.

Liverpool forged ahead against Qarabag with a scrappy goal from Alexis Mac Allister before Florian Wirtz slotted in a second.

Mohamed Salah curled in from the edge of the box after Dominik Szoboszlai laid off a free-kick early in the second half and Hugo Ekitike raced clear to make it four.

Mac Allister completed a brace and substitute Federico Chiesa rounded off the rout.

Man City, Champions League winners in 2023, saw off Galatasaray 2-0 at the Etihad to grab eighth place with goals from Erling Haaland and Rayan Cherki.

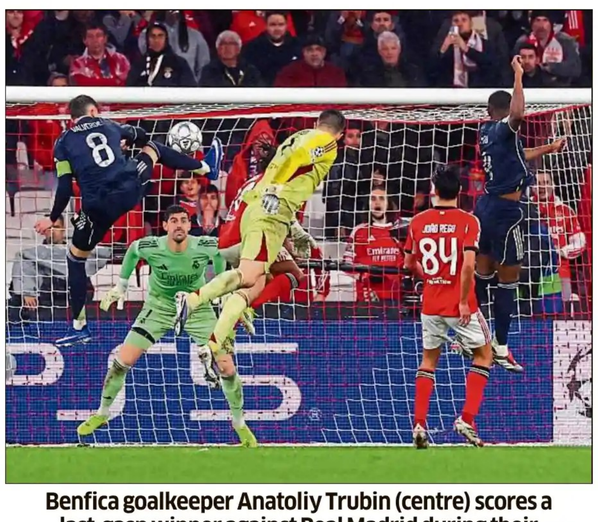
Barcelona, semifinalists last season, came from behind to beat FC Copenhagen 4-1 at the Camp Nou, to be fifth on table.

Barca were stunned by a fourth-minute goal from 17-year-old Viktor Dadason, but Robert Lewandowski levelled shortly after half-time.

Tottenham beat already-eliminated Eintracht Frankfurt 2-0 in Germany to take fourth, courtesy of goals from strikers Randal Kolo Muani and Dominic Solanke.

Chelsea made it five English teams straight through to the last 16, knocking Serie A title holders Napoli out of the competition with a 3-2 win.

Results: Ajax: 1 (Dolberg 69th) lt to Olympiacos: 2 (Martins 52nd, Hezze 79th); Arsenal: 3 (Gyokeres 3rd, Havertz 15th, Martinelli 36th) bt Kairat Almaty: 2 (Jorginho 7th, Ricardinho 90+3); Athletic Bilbao: 2 (Sancet 3rd, Guruzeta 28th) lt to Sporting Lisbon: 3 (Diomande 12th, Trincao 62nd, Santos 90+4); Atletico Madrid: 1 (Sorloth 15th) bt Bodo/Glimt: 2 (Sjovold 34th, Hogh 59th); Barcelona: 4 (Lewandowski 48th, Yamal 60th, Raphinha 69th, Rashford 85th) bt FC Copenhagen: 1 (Dadason 4th); Bayer Leverkusen: 3 (Tillman 12th, 35th, Grimaldo 57th) bt Villarreal: 0; Benfica: 4 (Schjelderup 34th, 54th, Pavlidis 45+5, Trubin 90+8) bt Real Madrid: 2 (Mbappe 30th, 58th); Club Brugge: 3 (Diakhon 4th, Vermant 11th, Stankovic 79th) bt Marseille: 0; Borussia Dortmund: 0 bt Inter Milan: 2 (Dimarco 81st, Diouf 90+4); Eintracht Frankfurt: 0 lt to Tottenham: 2 (Kolo Muani 47th, Solanke 77th); Liverpool: 6 (Mac Allister 15th, 61st, Wirtz 21st, Salah 50th, Ekitike 57th, Chiesa 90th) bt Qarabag: 0; Manchester City: 2 (Haaland 11st, Cherki 29th) bt Galatasaray: 0; Monaco: 0 drew with Juventus: 0; Napoli: 2 (Vergara 33rd, Hojlund 43rd) lt to Chelsea: 3 (Fernandez 19th, Pedro 61st, 82nd); Pafos: 4 (Dragomir 17th, Bruno 53rd, Andersen 84th, 87th) bt Slavia Prague: 1 (Chaloupek 44th); Paris Saint-Germain: 1 (Vitinha 8th) drew with Newcastle: 1 (Wilock 45+2); PSV Eindhoven: 1 (Saibari 78th) lt to Bayern Munich: 2 (Musiala 58th, Kane 84th); Union Saint-Gilloise: 1 (Khalaili 70th) bt Atalanta: 0.



Benfica goalkeeper Anatoliy Trubin (centre) scores a last-gasp winner against Real Madrid during their Champions League clash in Lisbon on Wednesday. REUTERS

No stay on proceedings: Delhi HC

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Delhi High Court on Thursday clarified there was no stay on proceedings in the trial court in the sexual harassment case by several women wrestlers against former BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh **(in pic)**.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma made the statement while listing the former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief's plea to quash the FIR and charges framed against him for hearing on April 21.

The judge deferred hearing on the petition after the counsel for the petitioner sought an adjournment and called for the trial court record on the next date of hearing.

As Singh's lawyer sought an accommodation on the ground that the main counsel was not available, the court questioned why the matter was yet to be argued by the petitioner.

"Why are you not arguing this? Since you have filed it, this matter has not been argued even once," Justice Sharma told the counsel.

End of road for legendary LeBron?

WASHINGTON (USA), AFP: LeBron James **(in pic)** was in tears over a video tribute to his legendary career on Wednesday, when his Los Angeles Lakers were routed 129-99 by host Cleveland in what might be the superstar's last NBA game in his hometown.

"I haven't made a decision on the future but it very well could be," James said after the Lakers' most lopsided loss of the season. "It means a little bit more for me personally because I grew up 35 minutes south of here."

NBA all-time scoring leader James, who sparked his hometown Cavaliers to their only NBA title in 2016, has not committed to play beyond this season, his record 23rd NBA campaign.

"I don't know what the future holds," James said. "Just trying to live in the moment, not take for granted the opportunity and be present."

The 41-year-old playmaker, a four-time NBA champion and four-time NBA MVP, scored 11 points, passed off five assists, grabbed three rounds and made a steal.

B'luru to host International Series

BENGALURU, DHNS: The International Series on Thursday announced its much-anticipated return to India as the second edition of the event will be held from October 8 to 11 at the Prestige Golfshire Club in Bengaluru.

The organisers also unveiled the first nine events of its compelling 2026 schedule, unlocking qualification opportunities for the Majors, attracting elite international fields and continuing to offer a direct pathway to the LIV Golf League.

It was at last year's debut event in India where American Bryson DeChambeau captured global attention. The 2025 edition was a success, drawing large crowds and showcasing world-class golf on Indian soil with top LIV Golf players.

Snipers FC edge Jawahar Union

BENGALURU, DHNS: Shreyas G, Nikhil Menon and Abhil A Thanangattil found the back of the net as Snipers FC edged Jawahar Union FC 3-2 in the BDFA A Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Thursday.

Shreyas broke the deadlock in the 30th minute to give Snipers a 1-0 lead. JUFC's Manggoulal Kipgen equalised in the 38th minute before Nikhil gave SFC a 2-1 advantage in the 45th minute.

Abhil added to the tally to make it 3-1 before Nitesh Sharma dragged one back in the 87th minute. However, it was too little too late for JUFC.

Results: A Division: Sniper FC: 3 (Shreyas G 30th, Nikhil Menon 45th, Abhil A Thanangattil 59th) bt Jawahar Union FC: 2 (Manggoulal Kipgen 38th, Nitesh Sharma 87th). **B Division:** FC Mangalore: 2 (Mohammed Fawas K 39th, Muhammed Hasil 46th) bt KSP FC: 0; Shooterz FC: 3 (Raju G 65th, 73rd, Meisnam Chourjit Metei 74th) bt William FC: 2 (John V 17th, 35th).

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Assistant Commissionner and Special Land Acquisition Officer,
(National Highway Zone Kalaburagi), Yadgiri Sub-division,
Mini Vidhansoudha, Yadgiri
Telephone No.08473-253311 e-mail:acyadgir@gmail.com

No.REV/LAQ/NH/02/2024-25, Dated :

PUBLIC NOTICE

In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956), the Ministry Of Road Transport And Highways, Central Government vide additional Notification Dated: 20.01.2026 declared the intention to acquire the land for building of National Highway No. 150 in the stretch of land from Km. 70.900 to Km. 79.650 (Gulbarga-Wadi-Yadgir Section) in the district of Yadgir in the state of Karnataka. The same is here with Published for Public Notice as per the sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act.

It is also informed not to carry out Purchase or Sale, Amortization, Any other documentation and Any Development works in respect of Lands notified under the Schedule of the afore said notification.

Sd/- (Shridhar Gotur, KAS)
Assistant Commissioner and
Special Land Acquisition Officer,
(National Highway Zone Kalaburagi),
Yadgiri Sub-division, Mini Vidhansoudha, Yadgiri

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 20th January, 2026

S.O. 300(E).-In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building(widening / four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 150 in the stretch of land from Km. 70.900 to Km. 79.650 (Gulbarga-Wadi-Yadgir Section) in the district of Yadgir in the state of KARNATAKA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Assistant Commissioner Yadgiri in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the stretch of land from Km. 70.900 to Km. 79.650 (Gulbarga-Wadi-Yadgir Section) of the National Highway No. 150 in the state of Karnataka

State: KARNATAKA **District: YADGIR**

Sl. No	Survey/ Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectare)
Taluk: Yadgir					**Village: Mudnal**
1	142	Private	Dry	0.5564(Hectare)	0.5564
				Total	**0.5564**

DIP/YDG/492/KSMC&A/2025-26

Sd/- [F.No.1146/3A]
SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director.

Pakistan to reach Colombo on Feb 2 for T20 WC?

LAHORE, PTI: The Pakistan Cricket Board has already scheduled its T20 World Cup squad to depart for Colombo early on February 2, virtually ruling out any possibility of boycotting either the tournament or the marquee clash against India on February 15, sources close to the board said on Thursday.

"The PCB has already made travel arrangements for the World Cup squad to leave early morning on February 2 for Colombo," he said.

The source added that PCB had shown its full support to Bangladesh Cricket Board over their "security concerns" in playing in India and could not do anything further without damaging its own position within the ICC.

The BCCI, PCB and ICC had also entered into a tripartite agreement under which all India-Pakistan matches in ICC events until 2027 will be played at neutral venues.

Isharani stuns Sung to enter quarters

BANGKOK, PTI: India's Isharani Baruah upset second seed Sung Shuo Yun of South Korea to enter the women's singles quarterfinals of the Thailand Masters badminton event here on Thursday.

The world No. 48 from India downed 34th ranked Sung 21-13, 14-21, 21-14 in a hard-fought round of 16 contest. Devika Shaig too knocked Taipei's Tung Ciou-Tong with a 21-14, 21-14.

Results: Men's Singles: Kiran George (Ind) lt to Prahdiska Bagas Shujiwo (Ina) 16-21, 11-21; Tharun Mannepalli (Ind) bt Ting Yen-Chen (Tpe) 21-17, 14-21, 24-22; Mithun Manjunath (Ind) lt to Lee Zii Jia (Mas) 21-11, 16-21, 12-21.
Women's Singles: Isharani Baruah (Ind) bt Sung Shuo Yun (Kor) 21-13, 14-21, 21-14; Devika Shaig (Ind) bt Tung Ciou-Tong (Tpe) 21-14, 21-14.

CRICKET

BIG-HITTING DUBE adds depth, balance

Regular bowling opportunities have sharpened his skills

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Hot on the heels of Abhishek Sharma's blistering 14-ball fifty -- the second-fastest T20I half-century by an Indian -- Shivam Dube lit up Visakhapatnam with a rapid-fire knock of his own. The left-hander raced to a 15-ball fifty, the third fastest by an Indian, during the fourth T20I against New Zealand on Thursday, adding another chapter to India's growing catalogue of T20 fireworks.

Dube's stay ended cruelly, run out after Harshit Rana's thumping straight drive ricocheted off Matt Henry's right hand and crashed into the stumps with Dube stranded well outside his crease. The dismissal denied India a fourth consecutive win, but Dube's innings had breathed fresh life into a daunting 216-run chase that had gone awry at 82/5 in 10.3 overs.

Particularly encouraging was the authority with which India's designated spin-basher took on New Zealand's quicks. He dispatched Jacob Duffy and Henry with equal disdain, smashing three of his seven towering sixes off the pacers (two off Duffy and one off Henry), underlining the growing maturity and range in his power-hitting repertoire.

A medium pace all-rounder, Dube was marked for things early after his debut for Mumbai across formats, and the 32-year-old made his T20I debut in November 2019, just under two years following his domestic debut. Team combinations and his own performances ensured that his international appearances remained sporadic. In the first four years of his international career, Dube could manage only 18 games. From 2024 to now, those matches have doubled exactly as have been his performances.

Four of his five fifties have come during this phase, while strike-rate has gone up by almost 19 runs. He may not be in the same league as Hardik Pandya, but his presence as a pace-bowling all-rounder adds depth to both departments.

"It's just the hard work which I'm doing. I'm getting better with my mindset because I'm playing all those matches and batting in that situation. So, I know what's going to happen, what are the main things which a bowler is going to come to me," Dube said after the match.

He was given a push during the Rahul Dravid-Rohit Sharma era, but he was largely restricted to batting. Under Gautam Gambhir-Suryakumar Yadav, Dube has been getting to bowl a lot. In fact, with 18 scalps, he is the joint-highest wicket-taker among Indian pacers along with Jasprit Bumrah since the 2024 T20 World Cup.

Though he didn't get to bowl on Wednesday, Dube has emerged as a reliable bowler with a knack for taking wickets and feels that more bowling opportunities in the last year or so have lent a different dynamic to his game.

"That's the key point for my batting and bowling as well," Dube emphasised. "I'm bowling thanks to Gauti bhai (Gambhir) and Surya bhai (Suryakumar). They have given me the bowling opportunity. So, when you bowl, you become a little smart. So, I'm working on that as well and trying to develop some more skills.

"I worked really hard, but I have got the opportunity to bowl, bat, and do everything in the match. So, there is something called experience and that has come to me, and that is going in the right direction. There are many things people upgrade. All the players, the spinners, fast bowlers, the teams upgrade themselves. So, I can't be the same as I was. I try to be a little better, a little smarter in the next game."

Given his relatively low profile in a team full of superstars upfront, Dube, for a large part of his career, has remained under the radar, but consistent displays with bat and ball in recent times have brought him into focus. The Mumbaikar is basking in the limelight.

Shivam Dube's power-hitting was in full display during the fourth T20I against New Zealand on Wednesday. AFP

Dube's T20I career progress

Span	Mat	Inns	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	50s
2019-2023	18	11	152	54	25.33	135.71	1
2024-2026	36	28	597	65	29.85	153.07	4
2019-2026	54	39	749	65	28.8	149.2	5

Clinical Challengers march into final

De Klerk, Harris, Smriti steer RCB to 8-wkt win

VADODARA, PTI

Former champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru hammered UP Warriorz by eight wickets to enter the WPL final and virtually knock the opposition out of the playoff race here on Thursday.

Nadine de Klerk's superb 4/22 and Grace Harris' 2/22 powered a spirited RCB comeback with the ball as UP Warriorz squandered a blazing start to settle for a below-par 143 for eight after Smriti Mandhana opted to field.

Harris then turned on the heat with the bat, smashing a blistering 75 off 37 balls as RCB stormed home with 41 balls to spare.

The comprehensive win took RCB to 12 points, sealing their place in the final and helping them finish atop the five-team standings.

For UP Warriorz, the defeat left their campaign hanging by a thread, with the side languishing at the bottom with four points and the worst net run-rate despite a game in hand.

Harris set the tone early, taking charge of Kranti Gaud in the opening overs before tearing into her again in the third, striking five boundaries.

She brought up her fifty off just 28 balls by lofting Asha Sobhana over long-on.

Dealing almost in boundaries, Harris hammered 13 fours and two sixes while adding 108 runs with skipper Mandhana, who complemented her with a sublime 26-ball fifty.

Harris was eventually bowled by Shikha Pandey, failing to read an incoming cross-seam delivery, but by then only 36 runs were required with more than 10 overs remaining.

Earlier, promoted opener Deepti Sharma struck her first half-century of the season with a fluent 55 off 43 balls (6x4, 1x6).

Deepti and Meg Lanning (41) stitched together a 72-run opening stand in 49 balls -- their best of the season -- to give UPW a flying start, but the innings unravelled in the middle overs as De Klerk and Harris applied the brakes.

Brief scores: UP Warriorz: 143/8 in 20 overs (Meg Lanning 41, Deepti Sharma 55; Nadine de Klerk 4-22, Grace Harris 2-22) lt to Royal Challengers Bengaluru: 147/2 in 13.1 overs (Grace Harris 75, Smriti Mandhana 54 n.o.).
PoM: Grace Harris.
RCB's next match: Final (Feb 5).

Grace Harris

Women's Premier League Points Table

Teams	P	W	L	NRR	Pts
RCB (Q)	8	6	2	+1.247	12
GG	7	4	3	-0.271	8
MI	7	3	4	+0.146	6
DC	7	3	4	-0.164	6
UPW	7	2	5	-1.146	4

IN BRIEF

Divya powers Kerala to win

▸ Divya U scored 15 goals while team-mate Shazana EB found the back of the net 11 times as Kerala thrashed a listless Andaman 36-0 in the under-13 Asmitha Zonal Football League at the Bangalore Football Stadium, reports DHNS.

Results: Kerala: 36 (Shazana EB 3rd, 6th, 10th, 12th, 19th, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 29th, 40th, 48th, Divya U 4th, 5th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 18th, 29th, 32nd, 38th, 39th, 42nd, 44th, 45th, 47th, 50th, Aleena Elizabeth 13th, 17th, 37th, Srebala 25th+1 pen, Niama MK 3rd, 24th, 29th, Aadiya Dinesh 18th, 35th, 44th) bt Andaman: 0; Pondicherry: 8 (Mahadevi 5th, 10th, 25th, 49th, M Sivasri 18th, Sebiya S 24th, 31st, 38th) bt Andhra Pradesh: 0.

Senthilkumar advances

▸ Reigning men's national champion Velavan Senthilkumar and Veer Chotrani advanced in the Squash on Fire Open in Washington with hard-fought first-round wins in the PSA Bronze-level event, reports PTI from New Delhi.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

WPL: Gujarat Giants vs Mumbai Indians **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **JioHotstar**.

1st T20I: Sri Lanka vs England **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 1**, **FanCode**.

U-19 WC: Afghanistan vs Ireland, New Zealand vs England **(super six, 1 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 2**, **JioHotstar**.

Ranji Trophy: Punjab vs Karnataka, Haryana vs Bengal, Mumbai vs Delhi **(day 2, all 9:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **JioHotstar**.

TENNIS

Australian Open: Men's semifinals **(9 am)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**, **SonyLIV**.

Emanjot frustrates Karnataka

BENGALURU, DHNS

Emanjot Singh Chahal hit an unbeaten, gritty half-century that not only stalled Karnataka's march but bolstered beleaguered Punjab on the opening day of their Elite Group B Ranji Trophy encounter in Mohali on Thursday.

Arriving at the crease with Punjab in trouble at 168/6 and Karnataka threatening to bowl them out for a sub-200 score, Emanjot led a brilliant rear-guard fightback with 77 not out off 134 balls to take the hosts to 303/9 at stumps at the IS Bindra Stadium.

Third-placed Karnataka, who need a win to guarantee themselves a spot in the quarterfinals irrespective of what happens in the other games, made a rousing start when in-form pacer Vidyadhar Patil (3/46) had opener Prabsimran Singh caught in the fourth over.

Punjab, who have endured an ordinary red-ball campaign so far, however, hit back through Abhijeet Garg (81, 133b) and Uday Saharan (44, 72b), the duo forging a 102-run stand off just 132 balls for the second wicket.

But the moment off-spinner Mohsin Khan (2/85) had Saharan caught in the 26th over, Karnataka picked up a flurry of wickets to leave Punjab in disarray. In-form spinner Shreyas Gopal (3/48) was the wrecker-in-chief, picking up three of the four wickets to fall.

However, Karnataka failed to build on the advantage from there, despite having India pacer Prasidh Krishna (1/58) in their ranks. Emanjot first steadied the ship for Punjab with an 81-run alliance for the seventh wicket with Ayush Goyal (23).

Even after Goyal departed to Mohsin in the 73rd over, Punjab's tail comprising Harpreet Brar (9) and Sukhdeep Bajwa (20) continued to wag to frustrate Karnataka.

Karnataka pacer Vidyadhar Patil picked up 3/46 on the opening day of their Ranji Trophy clash against Punjab in Mohali on Thursday. DH FILE PHOTO

SCORE BOARD

PUNJAB (I Innings): Abhijeet Garg c Rahul B Shreyas 81 (133b, 8x4, 2x6), Prabhsimran Singh c Shetty b Patil 5 (8b, 1x4), Uday Sharan c Rahul b Mohsin 44 (72b, 6x4, 1x6), Jashanpreet Singh c Mohsin b Shreyas 6 (16b, 1x4), Anmolpreet Singh b Shreyas 0 (1b), Anmol Malhotra c Krutik b Patil 25 (46b, 2x4, 1x6), Emanjot Singh Chahal (batting) 77 (134b, 8x4, 1x6), Ayush Goyal st Krutik b Mohsin23 (82b, 2x4), Harpreet Brar c Krutik b Patil 9 (38b, 1x4), Sukhdeep Singh Bajwa 20 (13b, 4x4), Anmoljeet Singh (batting) 0 (3b). Extras (LB-12, W-1) 12. **TOTAL (for 9 wkts, 91 overs) 303.** **Fall of wickets:** 1-6 (Prabhsimran), 2-108 (Saharan), 3-119 (Jashanpreet), 4-119 (Anmolpreet), 5-168 (Malhotra), 6-168 (Garg), 7-249 (Goyal), 8-272 (Brar), 9-301 (Sukhdeep). **Bowling:** Prasidh Krishna 14-1-58-1, Vidyadhar Patil 15-4-46-3, Shikhar Shetty 15-2-54-0, Mohsin Khan 25-0-85-2, Shreyas Gopal 22-6-48-3.
Other Elite Group B brief scores:
In Indore: Madhya Pradesh: 187 all out in 61 overs (Yash Dubey 29, Shubham Sharma 28, Venkatesh Iyer 39, Akshat Raghuwanshi 25; Jalaj Saxena 2-32, Rajvardhan Hangargekar 5-44, Arshin Kulkarni 2-31) vs Maharashtra: 52/2 in 13.2 overs (Arshin Kulkarni 27).
In Chandigarh: Chandigarh: 136 all out in 42.1 overs (Arjit Pannu 29, Jagjit Singh 29; Jaydev Unadkat 4-44, Chirag Jani 2-18) vs Saurashtra: 167/1 in 38 overs (Harvik Desai 80 n.o., Jay Gohil 61 n,o.).
In Porvorim: Goa: 279/8 in 83.4 overs (Suyash Prabhudesai 86, Snehal Kauthankar 29, Yash Kasvankar 50, Arjun Tendulkar 36; Nedumankuzhy Basil 2-55, Ankit Sharma 5-88) vs Kerala.

MI face GG in must-win clash

VADODARA, PTI: Defending champions and two-time winners Mumbai Indians will take on Gujarat Giants in a crucial Friday encounter, with the Giants aiming to secure a second consecutive Women's Premier League playoff spot.

Gujarat Giants are currently second on the points table with eight points and a negative Net Run Rate (NRR) of -0.271. They sit two points ahead of Mumbai Indians (six points, NRR +0.146) and Delhi Capitals (six points, NRR -0.164).

The Giants hold their fate in their own hands, with a win over Harmanpreet Kaur's **(in pic)** Mumbai Indians securing their spot in the WPL playoffs, while a victory by a record margin could propel them straight into the final.

However, even a narrow defeat could end the Giants' campaign, especially if UP Warriorz defeat Royal Challengers Bengaluru later on Thursday.

Gujarat Giants would still have a slim chance of making the playoffs even if they lose to Mumbai Indians on Friday, but only if UP Warriorz first defeat Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Thursday and then overcome Delhi Capitals.

Mumbai players wear mask

Home team Mumbai's players were on Thursday forced to put on face masks to protect themselves from pollution caused by construction on the first day of their Ranji Trophy tie against Delhi, reports PTI.

India and Mumbai batter Sarfaraz Khan, his younger brother Musheer Khan and spinner Himanshu Singh were seen wearing face masks during the third session's play here at the MCA-BKC Ground.

The AQI (air quality index) on Thursday hovered around 160 with the conditions being "unhealthy", as the players fought it out on the field.

Molineux to lead T20 side for India series

SYDNEY, PTI: Spin bowling all-rounder Sophie Molineux was on Thursday appointed the Australian women's T20 captain for the series against ODI world champions India next month and will succeed Alyssa Healy as the leader across formats after the home assignment.

Australia's squads for all formats were announced on Thursday. India's tour of Australia begins on February 15 with a three-match T20I series starting at Sydney. The other two matches will be played on February 19 and 21 at Canberra and Adelaide.

Australia Squads: T20Is: Sophie Molineux (c), Ashleigh Gardner (vc), Tahlia McGrath (vc), Darcie Brown, Nicola Carey, Kim Garth, Grace Harris, Phoebe Litchfield, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham.
ODIs: Alyssa Healy (c), Sophie Molineux (vc), Darcie Brown, Nicola Carey, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Beth Mooney, Tahlia McGrath, Ellyse Perry, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham.
One-off Test: Alyssa Healy (c), Sophie Molineux (vc), Darcie Brown, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Lucy Hamilton, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Beth Mooney, Tahlia McGrath, Ellyse Perry, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham.

Gukesh beats Erdogmus; Erigaisi loses

WIJK AAN ZEE (THE NETHERLANDS), PTI

India's top-rated chess player Arjun Erigaisi could not match the skills of Vincent Keymer of Germany in key moments and crashed to another defeat in the 10th round of Tata Steel Masters here.

World champion D Gukesh fought his way back into contention, delivering an endgame masterclass against young prodigy Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus. Playing with the black pieces, Gukesh secured another clinical victory to take his tally to a respectable five points out of a possible 10.

D Gukesh

However, the Indian ace will need an exceptional performance in the final three rounds if he is to truly stamp his authority as world champion.

Erigaisi had been on the cusp just a few days ago but seemed to lose the thread midway, and now finds himself firmly in the lower half of the points table. With just four points from 10 games, the highest-ranked Indian has plenty of ground to make up merely to stay afloat.

A positional blunder in the closed Ruy Lopez is often unforgivable, and that was precisely Erigaisi's undoing. Vincent Keymer was quick to pounce, and from that point on there was no looking back for the German, who himself has endured a mixed tournament so far.

Divya for Norway chess

Indian Grandmaster and World Cup winner Divya Deshmukh will make her debut at Norway Chess Women later this year, becoming the youngest player to compete in the women's tournament since its launch in 2024.

Veteran Manpreet gets the axe

BENGALURU, DHNS

Hockey India announced the probables for the upcoming first leg of the FIH Pro League season on Thursday with senior midfield mainstay Manpreet Singh missing from the list of 33 players.

For the first time in 15 years, the 33-year-old former India captain will not be a part of the national camp. The two-time Olympic bronze medallist was a mere game away from becoming the joint highest-capped Indian player alongside current Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey with 412 appearances.

Manpreet Singh

The camp will be held from Feb 1 to 7 ahead of the Pro League matches scheduled in Rourkela from Feb 10 to 15. The event will be the first of the busy year with the World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands in August and the Asian Games in Japan in September-October. Goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak is another name to make the cut while young Princedeep Singh has been included following his stellar show at the Junior World Cup in Chennai last December.

The probables: Goalkeepers: Pawan, Suraj Karkera, Mohith Shashikumar, Princedeep Singh. **Defenders:** Amit Rohidas, Jarmanpreet Singh, Sanjay, Harmanpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh, Sumit, Poovanna Chandura Boby, Yashdeep Siwach, Nilam Sanjeep Xess, Amandeep Lakra. **Midfielders:** Rajinder Singh, Manmeet Singh, Hardik Singh, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Vishnu Kant Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Nilakanta Sharma, Rosan Kujur. **Forwards:** Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Mandeep Singh, Araijeet Singh Hundal, Angad Bir Singh, Uttam Singh, Selvam Karthi, Aditya Arjun Lalage, Maninder Singh.

Aussie Nobbs passes away

MELBOURNE, PTI: Former Australian hockey player Michael Nobbs, who coached the Indian men's team at the 2012 London Olympics, has died after a prolonged illness.

He was 72 years old and is survived by his wife Lee Capes, a former Australian women's international and daughter Kaitlin who is a current Hockeyroos star.

Nobbs represented Australia as a defender, playing across the half-back line and at fullback, and was renowned for his reliability, fitness and professionalism.

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Authorised Dealers For Bajaj Auto Ltd.: Bangalore • Bommanahalli AMBA BAJAJ: 9535411100 • HSR Layout AMBA BAJAJ: 8884333732 • Sarjapur AMBA BAJAJ: 7406688884• BTM Layout AMBA BAJAJ: 9513926221• Madiwala AMBA BAJAJ: 9945000048• Electronic City AMBA BAJAJ: 8971711118• Nayandahalli RV BAJAJ: 6360308373 • Moodalapalya RV BAJAJ: 9740444545 • Kengeri RV BAJAJ: 7353763305 • Giri Nagar RV BAJAJ: 7353763302• Vijaynagar RV BAJAJ: 7353763307• Banashankari POPULAR BAJAJ: 9945111874 • Rajajinagar POPULAR BAJAJ : 6366554001 • Koramangala POPULAR BAJAJ: 9845589079 • Konankunte POPULAR BAJAJ: 7760967834 • Ramnagara POPULAR BAJAJ: 7760967832 • Kanakpura POPULAR BAJAJ: 9972533890 • POPULAR BAJAJ Channapatna 9901947666 • POPULAR BAJAJ Uttarahalli 9972095890 • POPULAR BAJAJ Gottigere 7760996891 • Yelahanka KALYANI BAJAJ: 9449849618 • Mekhri circle KALYANI BAJAJ 8884413593 Mathikere KALYANI BAJAJ: 8884430126 • Chikkaballapura KALYANI BAJAJ: 8884413594 • Devanahalli KALYANI BAJAJ: 9449849624 • Marathahalli KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9036091986 • Kasturba Rd KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9035060140 • Indiranagar KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9035060139 • Hennur KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9742155225 • Banaswadi KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9035060147 • Yeshwanthpur : KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: - 9148752305 • Hesargatta KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9035060148 • Whitefield KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 8618840097 • Hoskote KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9035005075 • Magadi Rd ANANT BAJAJ: 9980009166 • Laggere ANANT BAJAJ: 9900072690 • Hubli CHANNAMMA BAJAJ: 9008030908 • Arvind Nagar branch 8884771881 Gadag CHANNAMMA BAJAJ: 7090665850 • Sirsi CHANNAMMA BAJAJ: 8884645609 • Haveri CHANNAMMA BAJAJ: 8151884422 • Belgaum JAGASHREE BAJAJ: 988690116, MISHA BAJAJ: 9632684225. • Chikodi MISHA BAJAJ: 9632765225 • Gokak MISHA BAJAJ: 9035454225 • Bellary AADI BAJAJ: 9606050250• Raichur SHREE BALAJI AUTOMOBILES: 9880235539• Koppal I A BAJAJ: 9632512938• Hospet AADI BAJAJ:9731361414 • Hagaribommanahalli AADI BAJAJ: 9900363010• SIRUGUPPA AADI BAJAJ: 9110217558 • Bijapur BIJJARGI BAJAJ (BLDE Road): 7022627411•(Bus Stand Road) 7022627412• Bagalkot BIJJARGI BIKES: 9148448324 • Sindagi BIJJARGI BAJAJ 8861946802• Bidar SINDOL BAJAJ 9513226555 • Chitradurga BTV BAJAJ: Ph: 8310553554 • Hiriyur BTV BAJAJ: Ph: 8310553554 • Challakere BTV BAJAJ 8310553554 • Davangere JAIN BAJAJ: Ph: 9343636805, 9663566620 • Harihara JAIN BAJAJ: Ph: 9632300444 • Gulbarga VKG BAJAJ: 9632018700 • Yadgir VKG BAJAJ: 8867776567 • Humnabad VKG BAJAJ 8050889160 • Shimoga SUPREME BAJAJ: 8105000999 • Sagar SUPREME BAJAJ: 9008339799 • Bhadravathi SUPREME BAJAJ: 9008352799 • Chikkamagalur SUPREME BAJAJ: 9008379799 • Tarikere SUPREME BAJAJ: 9008569799 • Hosanagar SUPREME BAJAJ 9731767799 • Anandpura SUPREME BAJAJ 9663501499 • Hassan ARPITA BAJAJ: 9902439255, Arsikere ARPITA BAJAJ: 9964094535 • Kolar KHIVRAJ 9611768292 • KGF KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 7349507477• Tumkur AKSHAYA BAJAJ: 7259040212• Tiptur AKSHAYA BAJAJ: 7259040226 • Sira AKSHAYA BAJAJ: 7259040328 • Kunigal AKSHAYA BAJAJ: 7338662706 • Madhugiri AKSHAYA BAJAJ: 7259040340 • BH Road: 7338662687 • Mysore Saraswathipuram POPULAR BAJAJ: 9148101113 • Chamarajapuram POPULAR BAJAJ: 7259786271 • Vontikoppal STAR BAJAJ: 9886959722 • Mandya POPULAR BAJAJ: 7760967900 • Chamarajanagara PATEL BAJAJ: 9480494888 • Hunsur STAR BAJAJ: 8884374777 • Kushalnagar POPULAR BAJAJ: 7259786276 • Nanjangud STAR BAJAJ: 9742100252 • NR Mohalla STAR BAJAJ: 8095777706 • Balmatta SUPREME BAJAJ: 9606973192 • Kuloor SUPREME BAJAJ: 9606237547 • Surathkal SUPREME BAJAJ: 9606973193 • Thokottu 9606702429 • B C Road 7618715273 • Bidar SINDOL BAJAJ 9513226555 • UDUPI SAANVI BAJAJ 8861135225.